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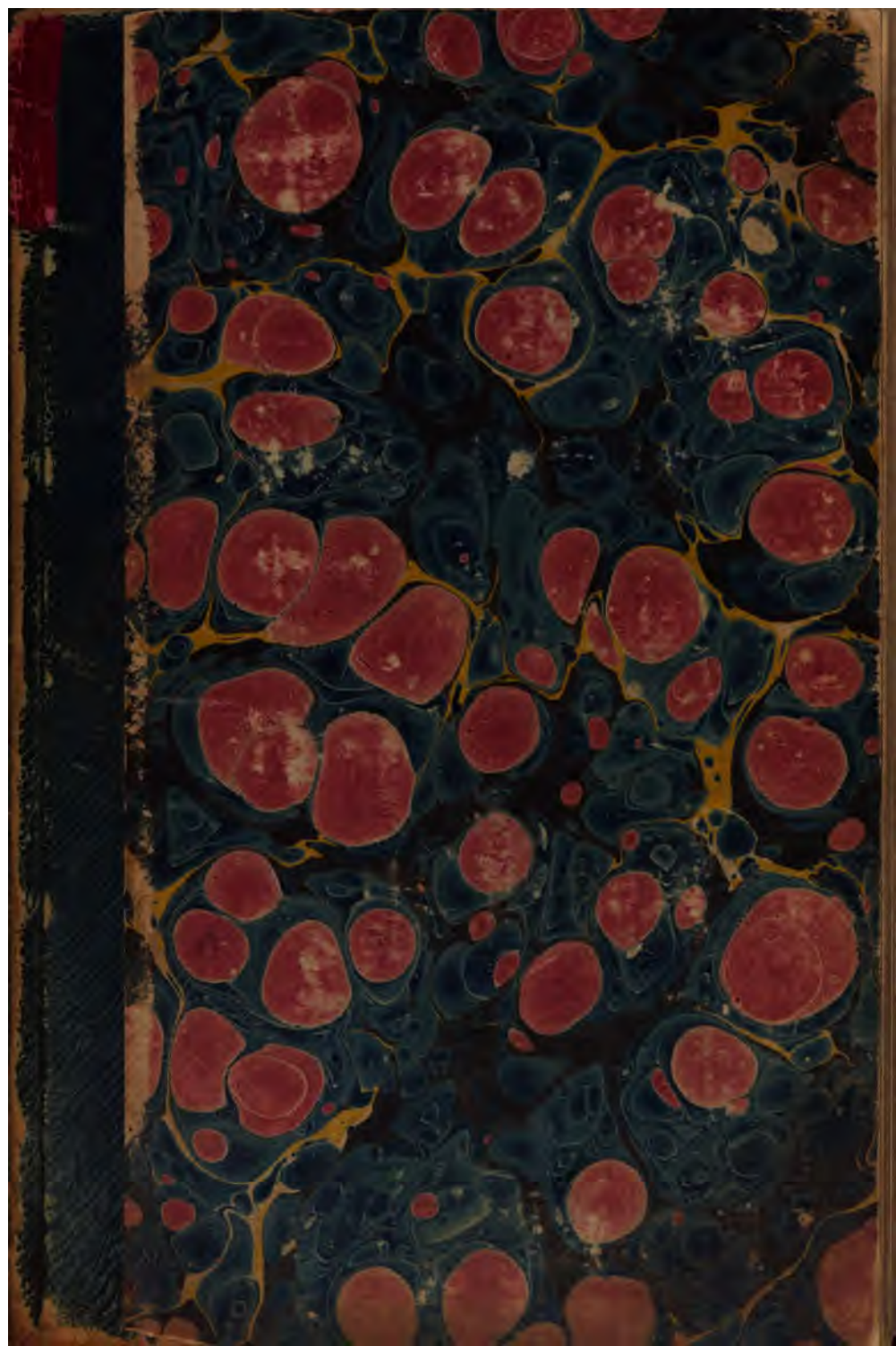
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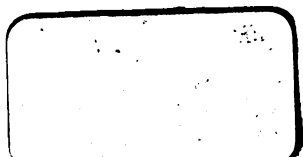
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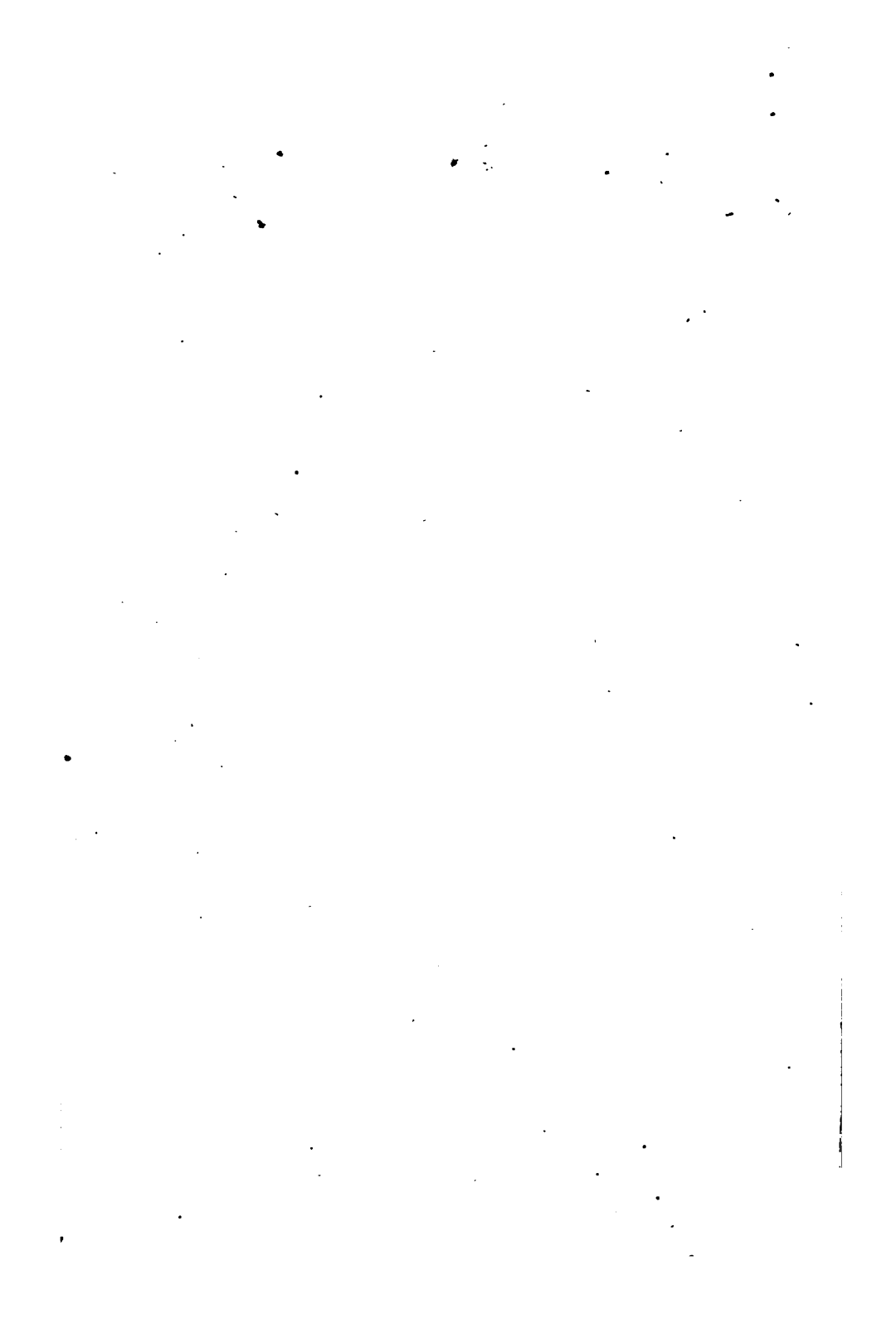
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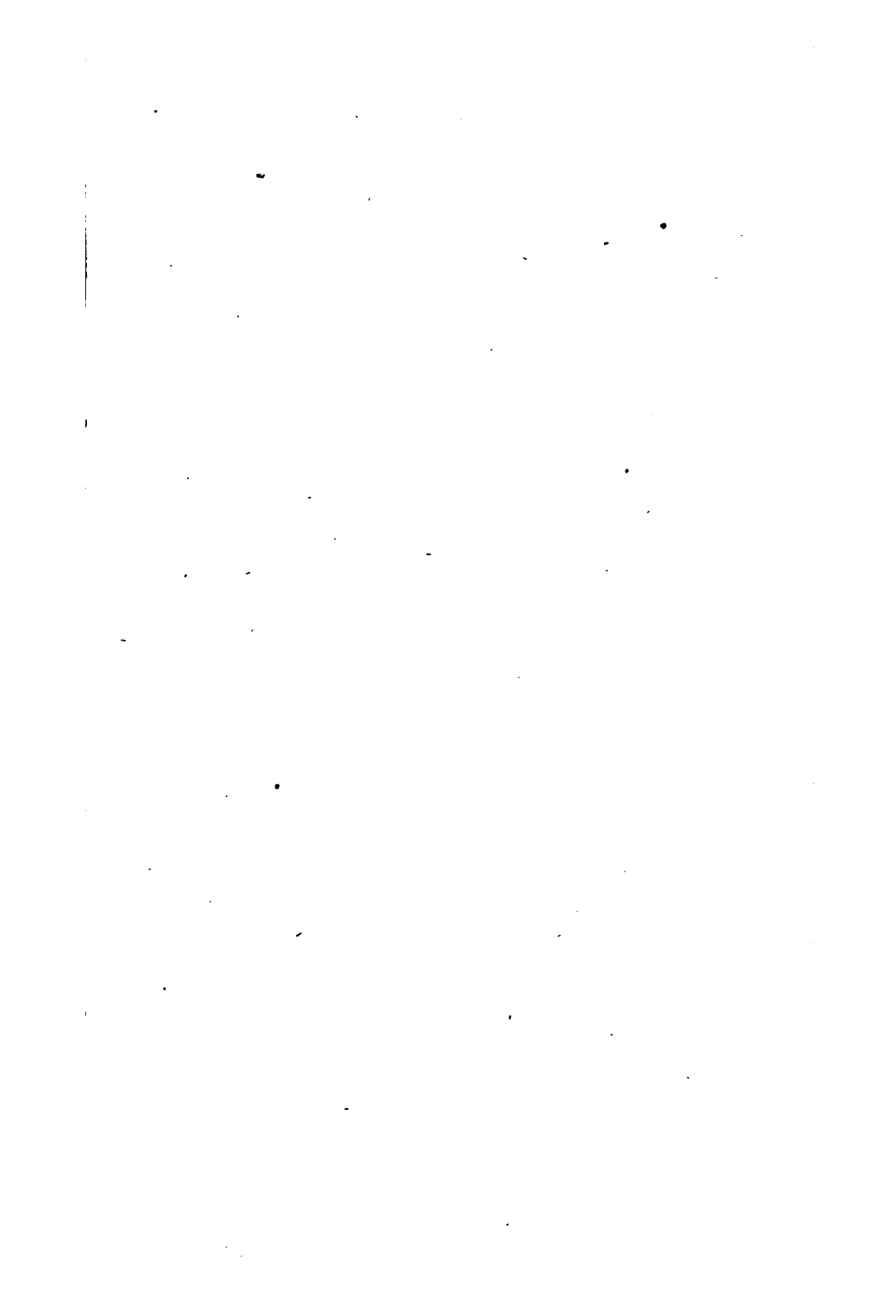


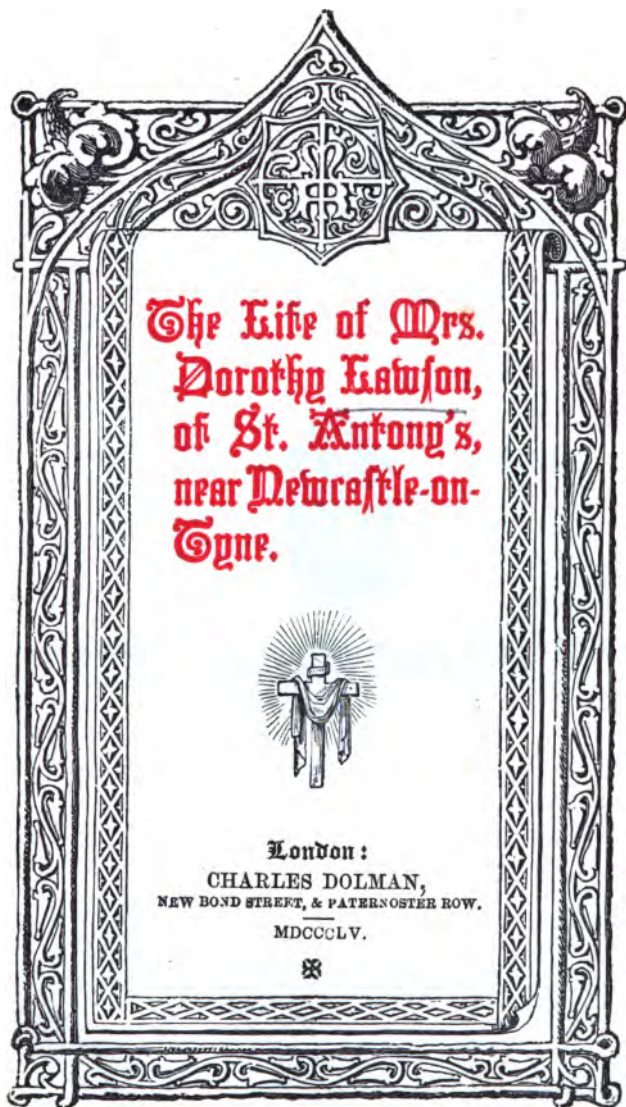


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Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

TO
SIR WILLIAM LAWSON

OF BROUGH HALL CO. YORK BARONET

THIS IMPRINT
OF THE CONTEMPORARY BIOGRAPHY OF A
REVERED ANCESTRESS

IS DEDICATED.



Manor-house, Eyker, Seventeenth century.



Advertisement.



WE are indebted to Sir William Lawson, baronet, for permission to publish the accompanying imprint of a very curious MS. biography of Mrs. Dorothy Lawson, his ancestress through seven generations. The number of her descendants, down to 1798, exceeded two hundred, "including the Lawson family, and through it, the Swinburnes, Tempests, Withams, Traffords, Blundells, Howards of Corby, Petres, Silvertops, Stricklands, Wrights, Westons, and Salvins.

So curious a picture of the life and manners of a past age, seemed to the editor too valuable to remain unpublished. Such observations as he has chosen to make on the narrative, he has embodied in his Introduction, in which he trusts he has conveyed some valuable illustrative information, and presents

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ADVERTISEMENT.

it to the public as an addition to our materials for local history. The foot-notes to the Biography bearing the initials H. L. and W. L., are those of the late and present baronets, Sir Henry and Sir William Lawson.

G. B. R.





Manor-house, Byker—West end.

Introduction.



NEAR Heaton, on an elevated situation to the east of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is the ancient village of Byker, which, with its park, was held by Nicholas de Biker, in grand serjeancy in 1234. Robert de Byker died seized of two parts of Byker and Pampendon, 15 Edw. I. The Percys had it in Henry the Sixth's time; and Edward IV. granted it to his brother Clarence. The Percys again forfeited it in the reign of Henry VIII., shortly after which James Lawson, a merchant-adventurer of Newcastle, (from whom the Baronets of Brough) became its purchaser from the king. Edmund Lawson (son of James) and

Margery his wife, 20 July, 1 Edw. VI., conveyed to the mayor and burgesses for 130*l.* the lands and shores east of the Swirle, in Sandgate.^a Ralph Lawson held Byker in 1567,^b and at the close of the century we find the Corporation paying rents and acknowledgements to him for uses :—

“Oct. 1597, paid Mr. Ralphe Lawson, esquier, for one year’s rente for the neathirdshipp of this towne, *xxijs. viijd.*”

“Oct. 1598, paid for one pound of pepper and a bagge for Mr. Ralphe Lawson, esquier, of Brough, for the rente of the Walkenowle-cloase whereon the townes cundittes stands, *vs. ivd.*”^c

The Roman Wall passed on the north side of this village, which, with its park, as has been seen, gave name to a resident family. The inhabitants have traditions of the greatness of the place, which present appearances do not altogether corroborate. Its age, however, cannot be doubted, and to this day the place, with its ancient manor-house, the faded remains of the village-green, and the disposition of its humbler dwellings, still present the lingering traces of a by-gone age. The remnants of a cross

^a Hornby, *ij.* 208-9.

^b Hodgs : *Beauties—vol.* Northd. Local histories inform us that the Pullleins obtained the estate of Heaton by marriage, but in 1568 the manor was the joint property of Ralph Lawson and John Mitford, *esqrs.* It is also stated that the late Sir Matthew White Ridley increased the estate by purchasing of Sir John Lawson the ground which lies between the hall and the Shields turnpike.—*See post.*

^c Corporation books.

were extant some sixty or seventy years ago ; ^d and it is ascertained that Edward II. dated letters from Byker, and on the next day from Newcastle.* The manor-house with its gabled ends, mullioned windows, stone porch, heavy-lintelled doors, and thick defensible walls, still survives to glad the eye of the antiquary, and the heart of the traveller, gentle or simple, with a draught of the English beverage, under the sign of the Blue-bell. Its quaint old rooms formerly contained many fine oak carvings, which, will it be believed ? were broken up by the then occupant for firewood ! These Goths, however, spared several pieces of curious tapestry, which still hang in one of the lower rooms, though in a mutilated condition. Holes have been cut through in many places, and we have seen a sconced candle hung up against it, secured by a nail driven through the richly-worked stuff to the wall behind.'

In the interesting tract which we here for the first time place before the public, the residence of Roger and Dorothy Lawson is stated to have been at Heaton, 'a convenient house and reasonable good seat.' At first the immediate proximity of the family residence at Byker, led us to suppose, that with the reverend biographer at least, the two were convertible terms, for at this day, with the exception of the hall

^d Hornby, iij. 124.

* Rymer's Fœd.

'The mock ruin a little to the west was built by the Bidleys, as an ornamental object from Heaton-park and hall.

of Heaton, that village does not possess any other building of sufficient importance to render it likely to have been the residence of a person of rank. The fact, however, of Mr. Lawson being described as of Heaton in the parish-register, led us to a further and satisfactory investigation. It is evident that the family must have entered upon Heaton (or built it, but this is not clear) between 1597 and 1601. Sir Ralph Lawson of Brough, who died in 1623, 'desirous to sell it, which he coul'd not doe, without her [Mrs. Lawson's] consent, moves her to condescend to the exigency of his occasions, proffering in lieu of it a place more advantageous for her designs, called St. Antony's.' The present Heaton Hall we have good reason for believing, stands upon the site of a mansion the residence of Sir Henry Babington, of the Harnham family, in 1628. It appears to us, therefore, that Sir Ralph must have sold the residence at Heaton to Babington, in the possession of whose family^s it would seem to have remained until the manor became the property of the Riddleys in the beginning of the succeeding century. The royalty, however, cannot have been wholly conveyed to the Riddleys with their extensive coal-mines there, for one of Sir Henry's female descendants named Atkinson, a scullion at an inn, recovered a share of Heaton colliery

^s There are family entries in the parish-register of All Saints until the middle of the seventeenth century. *Residence* may then about have ceased, though *ownership* might not. Reference to the Heaton evidences would, in all probability, settle the whole question.

in 1706. A still earlier structure not improbably occupied the site of the Lawson residence here. There was a Castle of Heaton, the possession of Robert de Gaugy, who is stated to have been greatly in the confidence of John. A few hundred yards north of the present hall, and at the outskirts of the wood, are the remains of an old building, commonly called King John's Palace, an appellation common to many ancient structures in which that king had no concern,^a King John and the devil being the founders to whom the vulgar impute most of the ancient buildings, mounds, or entrenchments, for which they cannot assign any other constructor. This difference, however, is made—to the king are attributed most of the mansions, castles, and other buildings; whilst the devil is supposed to have amused himself chiefly in earthen works, such as his ditch at Newmarket, and the Punch Bowl at Hand-head.¹

“Who for the devil's worke the vulgar dare avow.”^k

We read of a *chapel* at Heaton, which, with the old building in question, may not improbably have

^a “By what fatality,” says Mr. Wyndham, speaking of an ancient building at Warnford (*Archæolo.* v. 357), “so many ancient edifices came to be attributed to king John, and to bear his name, I am more disposed to wonder at, than to attempt to investigate.” Pandon Hall (according to Brand) seems at one time to have borne this name; as also to this day, the Nag's Head, in the Butcher-bank, is stated to have been a residence of King John.

¹ Grose.

^k Drayton's *Polyolb.*, song 29.

been part and parcel of the castle of de Gaugy. It is certain that Edward I. attended in the chapel here to hear a *boy-bishop* perform the vespers of St. Nicholas, on which occasion he gave to this clerical phenomenon, and certain boys that came to sing with him, the sum of forty shillings.¹

The visitation of sickness to which Mrs. Lawson refers as breaking out here, must have occurred between her husband's death (1614) and her removal to St. Anthony's (before 1623). We have not in our Newcastle memoranda on that subject any notice of such an epidemic; but the diary of Thomas Chaytor, of Butterby, near Durham, takes notice of 'mervellous hevie' colds and coughs, attended with 'extreme pain and soreness in the head,' which troubled many during 1615. The year 1616 also witnessed 'a greate generall cough in this countrie, and manie died of few daies' sickness. Three or four of the counsell died at York.' In August, Judge Nichols died of a few days' sickness, on circuit, while he was proceeding to Carlisle. 'This yeare a great and perillous sickness in most partes. Many died of few daies sickness, both yong, lustie, and stronge.' The year 1617 was remarkable for a general cough among children which 'extremelie handled' them. Some one of these, possibly that of 1616, may have visited the

¹ Wardrobe Accounts, 7 Dec. 28 Edw. I. Gibson (Tynemo. i. 121) considers the chapel referred to was probably a temporary one for the use of the court.

district north of the Tyne, and be that referred to in the biography.¹

If the MS. under notice has afforded us information as to the earlier domestic history of the old manor-house of Heaton, previous to its occupation by the Babingtons—from it, solely, we derive the intelligence of the existence of a seat of consequence at St. Anthony's, of which in fact we were previously entirely ignorant. By the narrative we discover, that within the short space of twenty years a house was here built, occupied, and ultimately razed to the ground, which seems to have possessed such dimensions, architectural character, and general interest, as to give great cause for regret that so fair a seat should have fallen a victim to the hideous excesses of war. By it we also derive the very curious information that the name of the place has been derived from its being 'dedicated in Catholick times to St. Antony, his picture being decently placed in a tree near the river Tine, for the comfort of seamen.' St. Anthony of Padua was probably the saint in question.

This place, we are told, 'was incomparably more pleasant [than Heaton], but no house, unless shee would erect one at her own charges, for which shee was ill-provided, her purse ebbing low at present

¹ Clervaux Archives; extracted by Mr. W. Hylton Dyer Longstaff.

by the discharge of some hundred pound debts contracted by her husband.' 'The seat' we are again informed, referring to the structure just completed, was 'most commodious for pleasure and pleasant for all commodities; the rich and renowned river Tyne ebbing and flowing in such a proportionable distance from the house, that neither the water is inconvenient to it nor does it want the convenience of the water.' Few people, now a days, would venture such a comparison of the two sites, but unhesitatingly pitch upon that which the reverend writer seems to condemn; but at the early day to which he alludes, St. Anthony's could indeed boast of the beautifully green and well-wooded slopes which some of the higher portions of the Tyne yet exhibit to him who would fly for a while the din of machinery, the stench of cinder-ovens, the columns of smoke which, black as night, countless chimnies belch forth continually; the empoisoned atmosphere, and the sickly, deadened vegetation, which scarcely can be said to *clothe* the region through which flows a stream laden with all the impurities of a mighty and enterprising population. A stranger brought up the river by night, without putting his imagination to any very violent stretch, might conceive himself sailing up the pitchy river of hell, and making his entré to the infernal regions. In whatever direction he may turn his gaze he is met with hideous sights—a score of huge cones belch forth fierce tongues of flame, furnace doors suddenly burst open and disclose what seems vast caverns

of liquid fire, great sheets of flame licking the blackened walls which hardly confine them within bounds, or shooting forth aloft into the darkness, doubly dark by contrast. The ear is afflicted by the thunder of the forge, the continual clanging of hammers, and the hideous ringing of huge plates of metal as they are incessantly smitten; the panting of mighty bellows, the fierce roaring of the furnaces, howling and shrieking as they are chafed into whiter heat; the clanking and hissing of machinery, ever and anon varied by the stentorian cries of the workmen—all contending for mastery in this chorus of horrible discords. In the midst are seen dusky forms hurrying to and fro with unearthly looking instruments, stirring up the fires into fiercer flame, and suddenly casting athwart the murky waves huge streaks of light, as if to reveal the astonished voyager to the fiends who seem not ill-prepared to give him a *warm* reception.

“ Hell is empty,
And all the devils are here.”

Mrs. Lawson's death seems to have taken place on Palm Sunday, 26 Mar. 1632. Her burial register states that ceremony to have been performed on the next day. We can hardly add to the picturesque description of her biographer. The respect and consideration shewn to her in life and death seem to have been very marked; but it is difficult to reconcile the liberality which was exhibited in the mode of her

burial, and the entertainment given to the attendants, with the stringent measures which were at that very period exercised against the profession of the faith which she held and died in.^m 'The finest house in the town,' in which the banquet is stated to have been given, was probably that afterwards known as Anderson-place, even then, curiously enough, the resi-

^m Bishop Neile writing to the Privy Council, 4 June, 1626, 'maketh bold to informe that sir Robert Hodgahon's dwelling at Heborne, Anthonye Berrye's and John Davel's at Jarroe, on the south side of Tyne, about the middle way betwixt the Tynemouth and Newcastle, and one Mrs. Lawson's at St. Anthonie's, over against them on the north side, they all being convicted recusants, and reputed pragmatikal in ill offices of conveyinge, recevinge, and harboringe of persons of all sorts ill-affected to the state, is very inconvenient and dangerous; the redress whereof, either by removinge them from their habitations, and comandinge them to some other places of lesse opportunity for their evil dispositions and indevors, or otherwise, I humbly leve to your lordships' wisdomes, whose directions I shall most readily and carefully accomplish, restinge, your right honourable lordships most humbly at command.' Perhaps the opinion of Mr. Mayor as to the danger of sir Robert Hodgahon's proceedings differed from that of his employers; at least in a very sensible letter to Mr. William Smyth, 19 Nov. 1625, he writes, 'Understanding my lord of Durham desires to be satisfied concerning the danger of sir Robert Hogson's and Mrs. Lawson's houses, and of the intercourse with each other by boats over the river; these are to inform his lordship that I, and the aldermen my brethren, hearing of such reports, made enquiry, and could finde no matter thereof but idle reports, other than their keeping of boats for crossing the river;' but he adds, 'he will take order for the delivery of my lord's coles at Durham-house;' and concludes with some newes concerning the *Portingalls* and *Braseelers*, and that 'the ducke of Buckingham is gone to take the Isle of Zeland in caution.—Your loving brother, THO. LYDDELL.'—(*Surtees*, ij. 75-6.)

dence of a family of Anderson, for generations merchants and mayors of Newcastle, as were the then mayor and sheriff, William and Henry Warmouth, members of a family who had for four generations been merchants of the town, and in the two last its chief municipal officers.

G. BOUCHIER RICHARDSON.





Sheriff 1249 Mayor } Fenwick, of
 of the seat of the Swire in Sandgate — (Hornby MSS.) sole heirress of } Will dated 13
 to James Lawson above, } Row-
 83 House VIII, bur 97 } land

co. Durham sq., 1824. Sept. 1824. at 68. M.I. Jarrow. (<i>Surge.</i>)	of Grims- thorpe, co. York; ob. 13 January 1817. N.I. (<i>Surge.</i>)	umberland, and of Inner Temple sq.; died about 1613 or 1614.	Constance in rui- deress; born in 1590; marriage settlement dated 10 March 1597-8; died 28, buried 27	JAMES LAWSON, = ^o Margaret, dau. Sir Rob. Ramsay. ANTHONY LAWSON. † GEORGE LAWSON. All these sons living 10 Mar. 1597, and, with Roger, MARGARET LAWSON, = Sir Thomas Kotcher of Marlham, Yorkshire. <i>Essex</i>	Mr. Robert Lawson, Mra. Anna Englebee.— <i>Reg. S.</i> <i>John's, Nesc.!</i>
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Dedication.

MADAME,^a

BAD times and a worse pen sute ill to collect and publish what may conduce either to the comfort of the living or honour of the dead. With these two mishaps you meet in receiving my sentiments of the exemplar life of Mrs. Dorothy Lawson; (once my spirituall child, but now I hope my zealous advocate) not only in the way of a civill regard, but as a debt due by many other titles to your ladyship. The writers dulness, I desire her holy intercession may sharpen, and bouldness for appearing under the favour of your protection, your goodness pardon. Three circumstances induce me to present you with this

^a The person to whom this work is dedicated was, I presume, the Lady Abbess of the English Benedictine Dames of Gant. At this convent, it seems some of Mrs. Dorothy Lawson's daughters, and probably too, some of her grand-daughters, received their education.—*Hy. Lawson.*

unpolished relation. One motive, the first, is sympathie in extraction, both descending from honourable blood; the second, a better relation, which I may stile spiritual affinity, arising from the sweet discretion and discreet sweetness of government in you of your religious family, to be seen in her, as seven years experience taught me, of her charge, to her own merit and their consolation who had the happiness to live with her; the third, her reverent affection peculiarly devoted to your monastery, whereunto being not able to sacrifice her whole self, she consecrated a considerable part of it in her children, which doubtless will produce the strongest union between you, when by his meritts, that begott it on earth you shall meet as twins and embrace in heaven. My motive, (and indeed this attracts with some impulsion) is a second maternity or mother-hood in you to her children and grand-children, with this difference from the first, that by it they receive their infancy and adolescence in nature, by this they shall attain, after the general autumn prefixt by the Author of life and death to nature, a never fading spring of grace and perfection in virtue. Such mothers need not doubt of the benediction promised in the 10th of *Proverbs*, *Filius sapiens lætificat patrem*,—wise children rejoyce their parents. One thing I dare boldly promise, that there is not a passage in this history (the place of her birth excepted, whereof the distractions of these times afford no more than probability), which I may not safely seal and justify by oath. Another likewise I avouch

with the same confidence, that if this life had fallne into the hands of a witt, it would have yeilded to few in print.

Accept therefore, I beseech you, this cordiall remonstrance from him who will ever wish the prosperity of you and yours : and pray, that as you are a mother of this happy saint's children to the second generation, so, if God protract your years with a longer thread, you may premise them as harbingers to prepare their second mother a throne in heaven. These expressious really flow from the heart,

Madame,

of your most humble servant,

WILLIAM PALMES.^b

^b Dr. Oliver believes this name to be properly Palmer, and that the author was Father William Palmer, S.J., whose life is given by Dr. Oliver in his 'Collectanea S.J., 2nd edition, 1845, p. 155.' From the above valuable work is extracted the following brief notice. "No. 1206, Palmer, William, born at Lindley, in Yorkshire, in 1591, entered an Alumnus of the English College at Rome in 1614, joined the Society at the age of 27, and was admitted to the solemn profession on the 11th of November, 1631. Twenty years later he was apprehended with FF. John Taylor, and Charles Harris, 'ob sacer dotii suspicionem,' and thrown into jail. This venerable man, after serving the mission nearly half a century, died on the 8th of Jan. 1670."





**The Life of Mrs. Dorothy Lawson,
of St. Antony, near Newcastle-
uppon-Tyne, in North-
umberland.**

CHAPTER I.



HE glory of children is their parents, says the sage, not only because the same blood runs in their veins which framed their ancestors, but chiefly for that by a peculiar influency or reflection, their glory shines in their posterity, and makes their meritts by a naturall participation and interest theirs, which undenyable testimony of an author inspired by the never-erring spirit of truth, must needs contribute no small addition to the praise of this master-piece of perfection whereoff I am to treat.

She visibly took her first breath at Wing^c in Buckingham-shire, a house belonging to her grandfather Dormer, in the year of our Lord 1580. Her father was

^c Wing, or rather Winge, was obtained by sir Robert Dormer from the crown in reward of his services, A.D. 1552.—*H. L.*

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Henry Constable, lord of Burton Constable, in Holderness,^d a name in estate and canonicall pedigree, inferiour to none within the vast extent of Yorkshire. The condition of this family might compete for divers ages with any lord in the realme for greatness of state and prerogative, and truly for state it was, till these sad times, so incomparable, that the best younger brother owned it for a favour to be bred there in quality of a gentleman-waiter. In prerogative it came near the highest, having privilege to make vassals or slaves, and receive homage as their native prince, with chair and cloth in equipage of sovereignty. Her mother, the lady Marget Constable,* a flourishing branch derived from the honourable lineage of the Dormers, earls of Cærnarvon, rarely parted by nature, embellished with singular endowments in the internall, a beauty in the externall, full of majesty, tall in stature, sweet in countenance, fair in complexion, qualified with a proportion of vermillion, of an accomplished gracefulness, and in her whole composition so attractive that she was commonly stiled the Star of the Court, and a Mirrour or looking-glass in the

^d Sir Henry Constable was lord paramount of Holderess, and was the 18th in lineal descent from le Constable, who came over with William the Conqueror in 1066. Sir Henry Constable, brother of the subject of this Memoir, was created, in 1620, viscount Dunbar of Scotland, and 1645 died at Scarborough of wounds received in the king's cause. The estates of the Constable family were sold by an additional Rump Act, made Aug. 4th, 1652.

The brother of lady Margaret Constable, sir Robert Dormer, was created lord Dormer in 1615. His grandson Robert lord Dormer, was created earl of Cærnarvon in 1626, and was slain on the king's side in the first battle of Newbury, 1643. Sir William Dormer, father of lady Margaret Constable, was made a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of queen Mary. He married a Catesby.—*H. L.*

country. From this matchless pair came our divine Dorothy, bearing in her name the gift of God (*Dorothea Donum Dei*), a true daughter of such parents, not only for the essentiall character wherein filiation consists, and cannot be destroyed, but for similitude in perfection, which sickness and death defac'd, or rather covered with a vail to shine at the hour of generall appearance with a fresher verdure.

But what does this conduce to her advantage, for as gold is extracted from earth, and is not earth, so is tinn from silver, and is not silver; what did it empeathe Abraham to descend from Thare, a worshipper of idols, or avail Cam? a graft is known by its own fruit, and if the fruit be good, none will question the stock. I confess I should here lose myself in a dark laborynth, if I had not a skilfull guide, and more than a Theseus to unfould Ariadnes's clew. For as St. Ambrose tells me, there is no prerogative in succession or kindred, "*nulla in successione prerogativa*; so says the same author, "*hoc boni habet nobilitas, ut ab iis a quibus ducunt genus, ducant etium exemplum*;" this good is to be ascribed to nobility and stemm of progenitors, that children from them may learn to live well, by whom they first began to live, and precepts, wholesome or noxious, imbibed in youth, prove by custome a second nature to old age.

This creature was so lively a piece of her mother, (for that sex universally predominates in female issue) in stature, voice, proportion, comliness, and all other lineaments, drawn by the curious pencill of nature, that they were scarce by any thing but age distinguishable: so that to form a new description of the daughter were to repeat my precedant of the mother. But her best in-

heritance or part was that which neither wrinkles could blemish, sickness ruin, or death despoil her off; to wit, her pious mother's excellent virtues; her constancy in religion, for which, like gold refined in the furnace, shee suffered a long imprisonment,^f liberality to good uses, zeal of God's honour, to the emulation of Catholicks and confusion of Hereticks; ever permitting, in times of greatest danger, free access to her chappell; finally, an exact care in breeding in this young lady, so that she might not die as long as she liv'd, and treading her steps, know how to regulate her own.

These examples made so deep a stamp in her tender years, that grace and nature might seriously recall for the greatest share. Amidst the distractions of the court shee was retired like a St. Catherine, within the closett of her heart att home; when she was abroad never less in company than when in company, nor alone than (when?) alone. Notwithstanding, her modesty and other unexampled virtues had a magneticall power, more prevalent to arrest curious eyes than those who were once deservedly deemed bould, and now also by sober judgements are thought more forward than wise, but by corruption of these times are honoured for well-bred ladys. Amongst many eminent for means and quality, Roger Lawson, esq., son in heire to sir Ral: Lawson, of Brough,^g in

^f Margaret, lady Constable, was long imprisoned for the Catholic Faith.—*H. L.*

^g Sir Ralph Lawson, of Brough or Burgh Hall, near Catterick, in Yorkshire, was originally of Cramlington, co. Northumberland. He became possessed of Brough, or Burgh, by marrying Elizabeth, sole daughter and heiress of Roger Burgh, of Burgh, esq. Sir Ralph was knighted by king James I., and lived to a great age, surviving his eldest son, Roger. The date of the Lawson baronetage is 6 July, 1665.

Richmondshire, made tender of his respects in a noble way of matrimony; to which her modesty did so little bend, that none but parents could persuade her to appear in his presence, and a virginal blush cast visibly a rosy tincture upon her face, whensoever shee heard him named in absence. Then our deplorable and desperately distempered kingdome, had not the happiness, as at present it has, of Religious Sanctuaries, sutable to all constitutions, which moved them to meditate and resolve upon a settlement fit for her birth and fortune; wherefore Mr. Lawson being honourably descended, heire-apparent to an estate worth yearly, according to my knowledge, three thousand pound sterling, qualified in all points of courtship, well disposed in religion for his intellectual, of a personage without exception, and (which usually preponders in matters of this nature) giving uncontrollable proofs of his sincere affection; they sweetly persuaded her to anchor in this haven, where, by the government of the chief Pilott and propitious star to all seapharers, I mean Christ and his glorious mother, her ship might safely avoid the present billows of this life, and steer with a prosperous gale to a better calm in the future.

A word of these to her temper, was as much as a thousand to one of another garbe. Having attained to the 17th year of her age, the desired impression was soon wrought in her thoughts, and the virgin modestly replied, that as shee was theirs by nature, so shee hoped by grace to continue, their pleasure should ever be a law to her, and what they pleased to command shee would most willingly embrace as a course inspired by the supernall Providence. She ingeniously acknowledged to me that obedience to her parents was both the prime and sole motive of her consent (tho' in him there wanted nothing

to accomplish a perfect object of love) which did not obscurely presage, that his virtue was to conduct her through the whole pilgrimage of her life; wherefore uppon these more than dutifull expressions of her resignation, forthwith ensued the result of marriage,^a which not long after was celebrated with universal acclamations of friends, and splendour in every particular correspondent to their calling.

^a The marriage settlement is dated 10th of March, 1597. (39 Eliz.) The manors of Burgh, co. York, Burn Hall, co. Durham, Byker, Cramlington, Scrimmerston, West Matfen, Camboise and Blythe, with lands in West Slickburne, in the co. Northumberland, were settled. The manor of Burn Hall was given to the subject of this memoir for life, in bar of dower.—*W. L.*





CHAPTER II.

HER VERTUOUS COMPORTMENT FROM THE TIME OF HER MARRIAGE,
WHILST SHE LIVED AT BROUGH.

AFTER the celebration of her marriage, she was conducted from Wing to Burton, in externall pomp and shew like a glorious bride, but if we may credite an humble soul in her praise (which with me counterpoyses a malefactours accusation of himself in his own cause) as weary of such strait as ever shee was of learning her A B C, or needle-work, when a child. Shee rested att Burton untill all Holderness came to congratulate, some as friends and allies, others as servants and vassalls, but all promiscuously pretending tith to a proportion in the solemnity. From Burton shee departed towards Brough with a far larger retinue than before: but it most encreased at Leeman, a village six miles from the end of her journey, where shee was forced to make a halt by Sir R. Lawson, who att his first approach (which was glorious to envy) with a hundred horse of his attendance, saluted her with the ordinary salute of the kingdom, but after an extraordinary manner, nor permitting her to alight: then he took her from horse himself, im-

parted his benediction, which shee humbly craved on her knees in the dust, and mounted her again on a snow white steed he brought for her, caparisoned with crimson velvett, embrodered with swans and martins of perle;ⁱ these the arms of Lawson, those of Brough, whose daughter in heire sir Ralph marry'd. After the performance of those sweet mutual addresses he applyed himself to her father, of whome yet he had not so much as taken notice, and the rest of her honourable train with the highest rhetorick of civill respects, that the sharpness of his witt, improved by the best breeding of England could advance. Between the two knights, her own father on the right hand, her father-in-law on the left, shee ridd more like an Esther or princesse, than a subject or esquire's spouse, till arriving at a faire greene before Brough-hall, shee mett with a second encounter or volley of ceremonys given by her mother-in-law, the lady Lawson, who greeted her with the salutation of the welcomest guest that ever her house received, and to make outward demonstration of what inwardly shee resented, herself and her three daughters, the lady Rookby, Mrs. Ingleby, and Miss Ja : Lawson,^j were deked up in white sattine; the other ladies, great in number and quality, in

ⁱ The arms of Lawson, *argent, a chev on between three martlets sable*. The swans were quartered by the Burghs, but were more properly the arms of the Elkintons. The arms of the Burghs were *argent, on a fess sable three bezants*.—*H.L.*

^j By an error of the transcriber of two copies of the MS, the word Miss Ja : Lawson, is transformed into Mrs. James Lawson. Sir Ralph Lawson, in his will dated Sept. 4, 1623, gives "to his daughter Jane £200, and the chest in his bed parlour that was her mothers, and such a bed of clothes as her mother desired she should have." Sir Ralph Lawson was married in 1568, and James Lawson

such attire as each had purposely prepared for so publick a meeting. In the confluence of these allurements, attractive to sense, destructive of spiritt, and powerful to distract a well compos'd mind in the spring of youth, shee walked with the presence of God before her eyes, on whome her heart was so firmly fix'd, that neither multiplicity of new acquaintance could transport her, nor difficulty of travaile weare her, nor fondness of husbands (who for the most part serve at first for a fools-paradise to gaze on) so win her thoughts and affection, but that shee stole time before shee repos'd for even song and examen of conscience, which, since shee was capable, shee never as much as once in her whole life omitted.

Whoever wonders how I come to the privacies and knowledge of this secrett, must know that shee held it for a maxim in spiritt, to discover for her better direction as well her virtues as defects to her spirituall Guide; and if he knew me as well, he might more wonder that having enjoy'd for seaven yeares together the felicity of her company, I made no more spirituall improvement in myself by her virtuous conversation, and the many examples forcible beyond example, for the advancement of all perfection, and extirpation of sin. Notwithstanding being now depriv'd of that happiness by her egress from the fellowship of sinners to the society of saints; I am not a little solac'd (and this frequently occurs with joy on my behalf) that for the guidance of her soul, all the time of my charge, I cannot bethink myself of anything since her

was his fifth son, and probably not his fifth born child, consequently he would be almost too young to have been a married man in 1598; besides the MS. speaks of Lady Lawson and *her three daughters*; now knowing as we do, that she *had* a daughter *Jane*, we may safely propose the present emendation.—*W.L.*

death, which I either have not delivered to her or would deliver it, if shee were again alive.

This joyful time, which continued a week, being expir'd, and occasions of concearment urging her father's-in-law and husband's going to London, shee made a spirituall complaint to my lady Lawson, that whilst her body feasted, her soul fasted: O admirable zeal in so tender age, dangerous times, and variety of mirth and pastimes! her modesty was naturally so bashfull, that shee was observed never to take the boldnes to ask her own parents for anything that concerned her body; and uppon ten days acquittance (acquaintance?) shee assumed the confidence to move her mother-in-law for the refectiō of her soul. The good lady was much edified and taken with her querimonious request; but answered, shee neither knew where to find a priest, nor how (all her servants being conformable to the times) to entertain him: *But it is impossible to keep fire in ones bosome and not to flame.—Prov. 6.* The fervency of her zeal in this point, may be most fitly paralel'd with the course of the sun, which shines, proceeds and encreases to perfect day; for the coldness of this answer nothing abated the edge of her desire; not because it is innate to that sex to covet things most that are most difficult, but that a little water sprinkled uppon hot coles makes them hotter; shee therefore, glowing with divine fire which all inflamed her masculine spiritt, undauntedly reply'd, shee bothe knew how to find one, and with her permission to send for him and entertain him. Note I beseech you how witty true love is, and impregnant with invention for its own designs, when amidst recreations, masks, plays, sports, and disports, invented purely for her sake, then was her recollected heart most where her treasure lay, and her soul moved fastest with holy affection to her centre.

Shee secretly treated with Mr. Antony Holtby,^k gentleman-waiter to her own father, and brother to Mr. Richard Holtby,^l Superior of the Society, whose abode was but four miles from Brough, to stay after her father's departure, and sent him to know if his brother would come thither in case he were invited; who no sooner brought answer that he was at his service, but having three lodgings in that fair house for her own conveniency, shee presently, uppon my lady's consent, prepared one within her own chamber, again sent Mr. Holtby, to be his guide, and kept the gentleman privately for the space of a week, herself, and her woeman, who were the only Catholicks among the servants, making ready his chamber and diet.

This gallantry so animated the good lady, that whereas formerly shee went abroad to divine service,^m hereafter,

^k In April, 1597, a power of attorney was signed by Roger Lawson and Dorothy Constable, to Anthony Holtby, *gentleman*, and another, to take seizin and possession of the manor of Burn Hall, under the settlement o. the 10th of March, 1597.—*W. L.*

^l Richard Holtby (alias Duckett) was born at Fraiton, in Yorkshire, in 1553. He at first studied at both the Universities, but subsequently renounced the expectations of preferment to embrace the Catholic Faith. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1583. On the removal of F. Henry Garnett, the charge of his brethren in the English Mission devolved upon him. He died in the North of England, on the 25th or 26th of May, N. S., 1640, at the advanced age of 87, fifty-eight years of which he had spent in the service of religion.—*Dr. Oliver's Collectanea*, 1st Ed. p. 103.

The adjoining curious document will show that the screw was rigorously applied to ensure conformity to the new religion, and that sir Ralph and his family were not exempted from its pressure. *Radulphus Lawson de Burgh, in Com. Ebor., Armiger recognovit se debere Domine nostre Regine Elizabeth.*—C. li.

The condition of this recognizance is such, that if the above bounden Rauff Lawson, and Elizabeth Lawson his wife, do from

during the time of her daughter's abode there, shee had it constantly every month at home.

Nor did the sunshine of her resplendent virtues make a stand att this point, it proceeded by her industry to the conversion of all sir Ralph's children," and increased the number of servants to six in the faith of Christ. This happen'd in the reign of queen Elizabeth, when, if the perswaders to that profession were brought to their teste, henceforth orderly and dutifully repaire to their parish church, or other usual and allowed place of common prayer, and there quietly abide and reverently heare divine service and sermons, and thereof bring or shew true certificate to her Majesty's Commissioners for Causes Ecclesiastical within the Province of York, or to three of them, to the citie of York, upon Tuesday next after Michaelmas day next coming: or (in case she his said wife do not repaire to the church before that time) do that Tuesday next after Michaelmas day next; bring or send in his said wife before her Majesty's Commissioners, or three of them: If also in the meane season he do his endeavour to procure Mr. Archdeacon Bird, Mr. Lively, and Mr. Clerk, preachers of the word within Richmondshire, or some of them to confer with him and his said wife for their better conformity and further resolution in matters of religion established within this realm of England, Then this, etc., etc., to be void, etc.

RA. LAWSON.

*Capt. et recognit primo Junii, 1591, coram Johanne
Dno. Archiepiscopo, Rob. Walter Dno. Maiore
Civitates Ebor., Johanne Gibson, Legum Doctore,
et aliis Commissariis Regis.*

HENRY PROCTOR.

n It is doubtful whether she succeeded at that time in effecting the conversion of her husband, Mr. Roger Lawson, who is shortly after mentioned as conforming to the time. Roger Lawson was, however, undoubtedly reconciled to the Church before his death, and perhaps during his last illness in London, as is related in a subsequent page.—H. L.

their punishment was death, by a statute enacted under that princess. Wherefore as persecution was hott, so conversions were rare, and only to be attempted by such as God gave courage to say "love is strong as death" (Cant. 8). But a more temperate calm ensuing by the gracious succeeding princes, Catholicks became more numerous; yet so as liberty in times, creating licentiousness in men and manners, we may, if we doe not, following her holy paths, contract the reins in time, justly dread the application of the holy Prophet—*Thou hast multiplied the nation, but not magnified the gladness.*





CHAPTER III.

HER ZEAL AT HETON FROM HER FIRST COMING THITHER TILL
HER HUSBAND'S DEATH.



BURTON and Winge are remarkable and famous for rare woemen; and the all-working hand of God was not here abbreviated, but dilated, heaping store of benedictions uppon her, both temporall and spirituall. Shee produced as a fruitful vine in the side of this house, (for so were her lodgings situated at Brough)^o so many fair branches as it was necessary either to enlarge the old habitation or to provide a new. To enlarge it by addition of more roomes did not stand with sir Ralph's greatness; his house, though of great structure, scarce serving for ordinary resort of friends, wherefore her husband resolv'd uppon Heton, in Northumberland, nigh Newcastle;^p and because his

^o This was probably a collateral building or wing to the westward, which was pulled down when the house at Brough was almost entirely rebuilt by sir Henry Lawson between the years 1772 and 1780.—*H. L.*

^p By deed 1st June 3rd James I., 1605, between sir Raiph Lawson, knight, dame Eliz: his wife, and Roger Lawson, esq, son and

London occasions did not permit him to give attendance to that affair, he commended the ordering and executing of the business to her discretion and diligence, which shee undertook willingly and performed prudently.

Shee did not (as worldings do) range temporal respects in the first place of her thoughts, spiritual in the last; but after an exact survey of the whole work, and idea how to make the manner of living sute with the proportion of their present lively-hood, her prime intentions were to prepare a house for God, which shee did in a decent garbe, and had every month a priest secretly; tho' to cloak the matter for her husband's satisfaction, who comply'd with the times, shee went monthly abroad, as if shee had wanted the conveniencys att home. Her second care and solicitude was to provide Catholick servants: the which shee did so dexterously by little and little, hieing one after another, and never two att once, that her husband, between jest and earnest, tould her, his

heir apparent of the said sir Ralph, of the one part; and sir Thomas Fairfax, of Gilling, knt., and sir Henry Constable, son and heir of sir Henry Constable, of Burton Constable, knt., of the other part; after reciting that since the marriage of Roger Lawson and Dorothy his wife the manor of Burne Hall, assured for the jointure of the said Dorothy Lawson, had been sold; it is witnessed that in recompence of the jointure so alienated, sir Ralph and his wife, and Roger Lawson, convey one moiety of the manor of Heton, and so much of the manor of Byker as is situate on the east side of one water, called or known by the name of the Ewes Burne, excepting to sir Ralph and heirs the coal and coal mines, to hold unto said Fairfax and Constable, their executors, administrators, and assigns, for the term of one hundred years, if the said Dorothy should so long live.—W. L.

family was become Papists ere he perceived it. Nevertheless shee was forced to convey the priest into the house by night, and lodged him in a chamber, which, to avoid suspicion, was appointed by grant from her husband only for the children to say their prayers. These children, through her sedulous industry, were all bred Catholicks, solidly instructed in Christian doctrine, or principles of faith, and had the company of a priest so freely, her husband going more frequently than at first to London about law business, that the landlady where the good man resided, struck with a holy jealousy, feared lest he should forsake her, and remain at Heton.^a

Among these children her son Ralph was the first touchstone of her virtue. He was a beauty, and so cry'd up for privileges profusely confer'd by nature, that queen Ann,^r moved with the fame of his excellencies sent for him, set him on her knee, kissed him, honouring the infant with this *motto*, of the finest boy shee ever beheld. Notwithstanding, shee did not, as many foolish mothers do, desire to make him a looking glass, or continuall object for her eyes, but as shee loved him in God, of whome he was only borrowed, so shee gave him freely to God, and as soon as maturity of years serv'd, sent him for better education to Douay, where God accepted her oblation, and after a while spent in learning and virtue, adopted him to a better inheritance. Now

^a In a deed dated 28 April, 1597, Roger Lawson is described of th'Inner Temple, gentleman, son and heir apparent of Ralph Lawson of Burgh Hall, in the county of York, esq. It would appear therefore that he was a member of the Inner Temple, and continued in the profession of the law.

^r Anne of Denmark, queen of James 1st.

began the first combat that ever shee experienc'd between nature and grace; and altho' this sad accident had a naturall product of sense in the tenderness of motherly affection, yet it was perfectly temper'd by an overruling power of grace, as shall clearly appear in the subsequent chapters. A large volume were over little to explain the many changes shee wrought att Heton, I mean in men's souls; where, like the sun within the bowells of the generall parent of mortalls, shee produc'd precious effects of silver, gold, and gemms, dissolving with the warmth of divine fire those that were congealed with the ice of obstinacy, illuminating with celestial rayes the ecclyps'd with ignorance, relieving the neccessitated with alms, baptizing with her own hand children in danger to miscarry in the birth, and, which the great St. Denis averreth to be of all divine offices superlative, and most pleasing to the Highest Majesty, converting souls to the true faith with success so prosperous that many, above a hundred, were reconciled by her endeavours. All which as a pious mother shee took care privately to nourish with spirituall food abroad, when within her own doors shee could not do it. After divers years thus spent, like a Nicodemus, by night and stealth in the service of God, it pleased his supreme goodness to visite her husband with a perilous sickness att London; who fearing it would, as indeed it did, bring him to the universall period of mortallity, sent for her with all speed; and shee tho' with child, in obedience to his commands, and impregnated with the grace of that spiritt which knows not delays, took journey next day after the receipt of his message, in a winter season, unreasonable for a woman in those circumstances.

Shee no sooner finish'd that troublesome journey, but

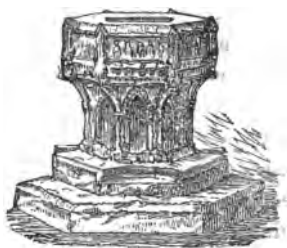
after a short passage of some tender greetings upon their first meeting, he desir'd her to procure him a priest, which presently shee went about with incomparable alacrity, not pretending any difficulty or weariness, by her travail, brought him that night, who with all the rites and ceremonies of the Catholick Church prepar'd him for a happy passage out of this world into the next. During the time of his extremity, which endur'd a fortnight, shee neither spared cost in her purse, nor pains in her body, which was weak, of a tender constitution, and inclining to a consumption; nor ever came in bed, but watch'd each night without intervall or rest, but what shee got in a chair, being overtoild and exigentd thereunto by debility of nature.

In fine, nothing could be expected from a dutifull loving wife, which shee did not execute for his recovery, with the whole extent of her power. And when God's mercifull hand made him a generall acquittance of those miseries, her care was answerable to her love and his deserts, in disposing the exequies, burying the corps with that decorum as befitted one of his state, dispensing alms, and obtaining prayers for his soul's eternall felicity.*

Grief and sorrow for the loss of her dearest partener so trench'd on her vitall parts, that shee was constrain'd for some few days after to remain in town, not out of punc-

* The time of Mr. Roger Lawson's death is not mentioned; it probably ocured towards the close of 1613, or early in 1614. By deed, 4th Sept. 1614, sir Ralph Lawson. in consideration of the payment of the debts of Roger Lawson, late son and heir apparent after said Ralph Lawson, and for providing portions for the younger sons and daughters of the said Roger Lawson, granted certain lands for that purpose, to trustees named in the deed.—*W. L.*

tilio of state, but to collect and refresh her consum'd spiritts, which, ere shee well recover'd, touch'd with a longing desire to solace her fatherless children, shee hasten'd homeward with all expedition: where shee intended to expend the rest of her life like a solitary sparrow in the holes of a rock, or mourning turtle, that never had mate but one, and vow'd never to know another.





CHAPTER IV.

HOW AFTER HER RETURN HOME, HER ZEAL ENCREASED TOWARDS HER CHILDREN AND NEIGHBOURS.



HE vowe intimated in the end of the precedent chapter to pass the remainder of her life in angellicall chastity, was seconded with many gallant resolutions and heroick acts of virtue. Shee was no sooner settled at home, and att her own disposall, but had one of the Society, Legard,[†] in her house, by whose continuall advice and assistance, shee daily improv'd, not only in her own perfection, but became visibly more active towards her children and neighbours. So far was shee from being discomfited or dismai'd (though naturally very passive, according to the quality or constitution), at the success her eldest son had in the seminary att Douay, that wisely praising a life most to be valu'd, which is less loaden with days than meritts, she ad-

[†] Of Father Legard no traces can be found. Many of the Jesuits in those troublesome times went under false names, to avoid the constant search made after them by the royal pursuivants and the magistrates.—*W. L.*

dressed all the rest of her children, a dozen in number^a (except the heire, in whom was deservedly planted the hope of perpetuating that antient stock, and two daughters, one by sickness, the other impeded by immaturity of age), each to colledges and religious houses, appointed for men and women, with sufficient maintenance, according to their severall vocations. Nor will it either seem incredible or not meriting belief, that shee bestow'd them on God with that facility, if we seriously ponder the exemplar devotion shee constantly used in bringing them into the world ; for whereas mothers att that time, according to the byas of nature, are most sensible and fond of infants, shee, eyeing more their spirituall good than her sensuall content, bequeath'd every one to a particular saint, to protect, as patron, from all mishap of infortune, and tender as a sacrifice to his majesty in her name. Verily I never heard (and perchance I have been over inquisitive in this point), shee ever express'd more passion in parting with so many children, whom she jewell'd and prosecuted with as much dearness as those that cannot endure them from their sight, than by shedding one crystall tear, which in sending one of her twins to Gant, I observed to glide from her right eye ; and by the happy progress of that dame, may be compar'd to the celestially dew that fell on Aron's rod and in a night brought it to the perfection of a leaf-bearing tree. Some, perhaps, will object, this does not so much magnify the eminency and unspotted integrity of her charity ; because it may seem tinted with a mixture of self-love, by a naturall extent to her children's good, who are but parts of herself ;

^a Mrs. Lawson seems therefore to have had fifteen children in all, though the family pedigree says nineteen.—*W. L.*

and true charity, as the sun shines indifferently upon all.

Whereunto I answer, shee is more obliged to her adversaries for this objection, than to my dulness who owe her most; for, whereas I demonstrate this virtue singly, they make a connexion or chain of virtues—to witt, piety and love to her children in educating them, liberallity in proceeding [*qu.* providing] so bounteously for them; mortification for forsaking of herself in leaving them; and which St. Denis teaches to be the hight of love, for powering herself out of herself, when shee parted with so many pledges, or precious parts and pieces, which the co-operation of grace with nature made more dear than a second self.

To this obligatory (as I may say) degree or part of charity, shee added a second of supererogation, so studious of her neighbour's good, that reflecting on saints of foregoing ages, I find it sympathise most with St. Gregory, Thaumaturge bishop of Neocæsarea, who being to leave with the world his bishoprick, asked how many infidels were in it, and when it was answered seventeen, he gave thanks to God; saying "That was the number of the faithful at my establishment." But when this apostolicall spirit arrived first at Heton, there was but one Catholic family in the parish or circuit; no church-stuff but hers, which was carried to severall places upon necessity. Att her departure from thence (or St Anthony's, which is all one, because it borders upon it) to heaven, there was not one heretick family, and six altars were erected for divine service. Of this harvest, as next God shee was the seed-man on earth, so assuredly shee reaps the fruit with a plenteous increase in heaven.

I must not here omit, for the honour of God in his saints, an act of sublime charity, grounded in most sublime and profound humility.

A brother of her husband^v (by infection I rather think, than disorder) had contracted a disease so contagious and noisome, that neither friend nor stranger would entertain him. Behold a true Samaritan! shee took care of him; accommodated him in her own house, sent for a very knowing physition, hier'd a skillfull woeman for his attendance, and, with her help only, till he recover'd, which was a complete quarter of a year, did all about himself, his diet, and chamber, without troubling any servant, commending the success of this difficult enterprise to the assistance of St. Francis Xavier, and Ste. Catharine of Sienna, by whose examples shee was moved to undertake it.

The far-seeing providence of God intended yet to cast this pliable piece of clay (for that's the alpha and omega of all flesh), and mold it into a more sumptuous vessell of honour and sanctity, visited her with a far harder tryal than hitherto, and permitted the plague to fall into the family; att first notice whereoff, the words of holy Job occurring to her memory, which us'd to be actuated with such comfortable thoughts, shee reply'd without hesitation, "As it has pleased our Lord, so it happen'd; his holy name be bless'd." Then her first thoughts were to have the infected persons well accomodated, which shee did not entrust only to the dilligence of others, but saw done herself, and afterwards removed her goods and family to Usworth, four miles distant from Heton.

During this sad time of sickness, shee was noted to be more chearfull than formerly, sending a servant from

^v By the limitations in the settlement of the 10th of March, 1597, it appears that her husband had five younger brothers, viz Edmond, Anthony, Marmaduke, James, and William.

Usworth every day to visite them, but every hour her fervorous prayers to God for their recovery. Her devotions were so graciously accepted, by the recommendation, as we may imagine, of his glorious Mother and St. Roch, whome shee elected patrons in this affair, that none died. This was her pious custome in all buisiness of consequence, out of diffidence in her own meritts, and confidence in the blessed spiritts, to implore their mediation in offering her humble petitions, whensoever shee desired to obtain good and avert evill from herself or others. And truly her prayers in this or other cases were so effectuall, as no doubt but we may apply to their prevalency the two golden sentences of the master and his schollar, St. Augustine and St. Prosper, "*Fideliter supplicans Deo pro necessitatibus hujus vitæ misericorditer auditur.*"—"Whoever supplicates God for the necessitys of this life faithfully, is heard mercifully." St. Augustin—" *Oratio pura Cælos penetrans vacua non redibit.*" A prayer, simple and pure from commixtion, does not only penetrate the empyreal heaven, mounting to the throne of the highest in an odure of sweetness, but returns home as a ship under full sail, loaden with treasure of inestimable value. For though the effect be known, which her holy prayers did operate, that is corporeall health in them for whome they were offere'd, yet the favours and graces they impetrated for the offerer, are not to be known and valued by the receiver.





CHAPTER V.

THE BUILDING OF ST. ANTONY'S, AND MANY TRYALLS OF HER PATIENCE
SOON AFTER SHEE REMOV'D THER.



ST. PAUL teacheth that tribulation generates patience; patience, probation; probation, hope; hope does not confound, because charity enlarges the heart, etc. A man may rightly affirm that patience, hope, and charity, were the scenes acted upon the theatre of her whole life, or three sisters which went along with her, sometimes one, sometimes another leading her by the hand, thro' the black desert of temporall afflictions. Divers probations and tryalls ensued after her return from Usworth to Heton. When shee had again made her house fitt for the service of God, and use of her children, Sir Ralph Lawson, desirous, to sell it, which he could not doe without her consent, moves her to cendescend to the exigency of his occasions, proffering in lieu of it a place more advantageous for her designs called St. Antony's. Observe, I beseech, the motions of the three sisters. Approbation was offer'd in moving her to exchange a convenient house and reasonable good seat, for I con-

fess a seat incomparably more pleasant, but no house, unless shee would erect one att her own charges, for which shee was ill provided, her purse ebbing low at present by the discharge of an [some ?] hundred pound debts contracted by her husband. Notwithstanding patience granted without passion an assent ; hope and confidence in God, who hitherto so mercifully assisted her, gave courage to commence a new building, and charity, which opens and dilates the heart to God and our neighbour, facilitated the work ; first, because the place was holy, dedicated in Catholic times to St. Antony, his picture being decently plac'd in a tree near the river Tine, for the comfort of seamen ; secondly, for that it was more private than Heton, and free to frequent her chapell. In this juncture of sisters, charity, the mistress and sovereign of all virtues, so oversway'd, that shee presently put hand to work, and bestow'd upon the building above five hundred pound sterling, which because shee intended chiefly for spiritual uses, shee invited Mr. Holtby, Superior of the Society, to lay the first stone. Att the end of the house opposite to the water, shee caused to be made the sacred name of JESUS, large in proportion, and accurate for art, that it might serve the mariners instead of St. Antony's picture : and when the fabric was ended, shee dedicated the whole to St. Michael and St. Antony, and each room (the chapel excepted, which was consecrated to the Mother of God) was nominated and publicly known by the name of some particular saint.

This seat was most commodious for pleasure, and pleasant for all commoditys ; the rich and renown'd river Tine ebbing and flowing in such a proportionable distance from the house, that neither the water is inconvenient to it nor does it want the convenience of the water. The

vast confluence of ships which it brings to Newcastle for coles (and this is looked upon one of the greatest sorts of traffic in the kingdom) pass under the full view of the house, and, notwithstanding, Catholicks may resort thither with such privacy, that they are not exposed to the aspect of any. The name of Jesus shee caus'd to be drawn so publick for two reasons. The first, her own safeguard and protection, esteeming herself ever safest under that standard, especially when shee had greatest frequent of priests. And verily it so prov'd, for whereas others thought these remarkable ensigns would but provoke the enemy and foment malice, hatred, danger, and some insolent attempts, it was to this little hermitage, the letter TAU in time of severest persecution. All Catholick houses were severely search'd, this mercifully escap'd and when, in harder times, almost all were demolish'd by disaster and war, this was daily visited in way of curiosity by soldiers of all ranks without impeachment, till the king's men (not out of spleen but fear) conceiving it a fit place for the Scott to make a garrison, made it, as I am informed, by fire even with the ground.—The second reason, that sea-fairing men of other nations might know it to be a Catholick house, and fly thither, as truly they did in swarms for their spirituall refection.

This shee stil'd her terrestial paradise; the content shee took therein shee fear'd would prolonge her purgatory. But as the never-failing wisdom of God had chosen her for a vessell so carry his name before nations, so he seasoned her with a mixtion of myrrh and frankincense, tempering sweet with sower, and thwarting by two sore counter-buffs the height of her felicity. The one was the death of her ghostly father, who she rather desired might bury her: and this shee acknowledged troubl'd her

more and was more spinie to her heart than the above mention'd tribulations, which, as we have seen, were neither few nor small if they had been all poys'd the same time in one ballance. Mr. Holtby, who honoured her as shee deserv'd, endeavour'd to quallify this corrosive by sending Mr. Henry Morse to supply his place, who after he had spent about a year in that residence (behold another touchstone of patience) by misfortune was apprehended and imprison'd at Newcastle.^w This contributed a new addition to the old soar, scarce perfectly cured, or rather lanc'd it by an incision to the bone. Wherefore a third of the same order was out of hand dispatch'd, who (Oh strange and inscrutable course of God's providence, in trying his friends by the furnace !) before he set foot on

^w The author of this memoir, F. Wm. Palmer, states that he was chaplain to Mrs. Lawson for seven years, consequently he must have been appointed to St. Anthony's in 1625, and it would appear that the Rev. Henry Morse, and father John Robinson, were both arrested in that year. Father Legard must therefore have died in 1623 or 1624, for the text tells us that father Morse, who was sent to supply his place, spent about a year in the above named residence.

Father Henry Morse (alias Cuthbert Claxton) was born in Norfolk, in 1585. During the great plague in London, in 1636, he was most assiduous in his attentions to the sick and dying, and caught at length the infection thrice, but recovered. He was shortly after apprehended, tried, and condemned to death as a priest, but at the mediation of the queen was banished in 1641. He returned however to England in 1643, when the northern counties were the scene of his labours till he was apprehended and sent by sea from Newcastle to London for trial, or rather for confirmation of the former sentence pronounced against him. His brother, an eminent protestant lawyer, tried every exertion to save him, but in vain, and father Morse was hanged at Tyburn on the 1st of February, 1645. A full narrative of his life and death was published at Antwerp in the same year that he suffered.

shore, was boarded by the searchers and committed to the same jayle.*

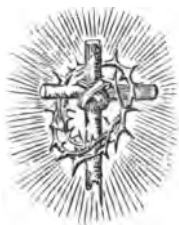
The heathen hear will say, fortune has turned her wheel, and clouded the smoothness of her brow with wrinkles; the heretick, that all is steer'd by a fatall necessity; the novice or untrac'd in the anfractious meanders of perfection, that heaven is highly offended with her, since this little sanctuary which shee built for a temple of God, and support or staff of her drooping age, is become the rendezvous of war and misery.

But the charity of her understanding admitted no such vapours, nor was the seraphycall fire of her will consistant with resolutions so dull and tepid; and her faithful memory represented species more noble and generouse of God's infallible promise: for the Father chastises the child most he love's best, and happy are they that suffer persecution, for theirs is the kingdome of heaven. They are her own sentiments, not my conception, and I deliver them in the very words that fell from her mouth.

These three crosses, one in the neck of another, resemble the messinger's hastening to Job with semblable tydings, and her patience, his, who, what shee felt inwardly, is best known to herself; this I dare boldly affirm, that outwardly, shee did no more than he, offend with her lips.

* It is probable that this was father John Robinson, but from the life of father Henry Morse it seems that the *latter* was apprehended immediately upon landing at Newcastle on his first visit to England, which would be about 1625. Father Robinson was not professed as a Jesuit till 1644 (April 17th). A little later on (Chap. VI.) Mr. John Robinson is mentioned as "her departed ghostly father then lying in Newgate (Newcastle) a designed martyr." We cannot reconcile these contradictions but by believing that there were two Jesuits of this name. The famous father John Robinson died at Watten in 1669, æt. 81.

And whoever knew, as I doe, the sharpness of these thorny aggrivances and the infinite respects, equally mingl'd with love and reverence, wherewith shee regarded her spirituall guide, might not amiss compair her sense in the inferiour part to a considerable martyrdom, and without exaggeration pronounce her conformity in the superiour to meritt a weighty poyze of eternall glory.





CHAPTER VI.

HER STUDY OF PERFECTION FOR AS MUCH AS CONCEARNS THE INTERNALL
OR CONTEMPLATIVE WAY.



I fell to my lott to bring up the reare in this catastrophe ; and the lott more happy for that it light on me by order of holy obedience : in which task or burthen, over-heavy

I confess, for my shoulders, God sent a second comfort, by the holy prayers of her deputed ghostly father Mr. John Robinson, a designed martyr then in Newgate, and Mr. Henery Morse in the same prison, afterwards a real wittness of the true faith by shedding his blood att London ;^y who for her many deserts to them, were sedulous intercessours to Almighty God for her, and her family, whereof I was now an unworthy member. And truly I stood in need uppon my entering to this charge of such assistance, meeting att first with a greater difficulty than I encounter'd in all the subsequent process.

^y The mention of the death of father Henry Morse fixes the date of this memoir as after 1645, when that father suffered at Tyburn, and in another place the writer speaks of his fourteen years' silence, which, reckoning from 1632, the year of Mrs. Dorothy Lawson's death, will bring it up to 1646.

She had an earnest desire to be like a solitary turtle in the desert and soaring above her self with new wings of contemplation, to make her point in religious solitude. In which important business the source of all goodness infus'd so much temper into my thoughts, as not to precipitate; but after a serious discussion of her motives, to take along with me the advice of maturer judgments than my own, especially Mr. Holtby, who knew her intimately from her first coming into these parts, by a most candid correspondence shee ever held with him; and wee, after due consultation with God, and dispute among ourselves, ballancing in one scale her years, and want of health, in the other the great good which would be neglected, if shee solely attended to her own soul, resolv'd in our Lord to be more advantagious for his glory, and her crown to persevere as she had begun, not only in the study of her own perfection, but allso in the pursuance and acquisition of others. I was affraid, being but a stranger, to deliver the result of our conference, but Mr. Holtby warranted me, by the character he gave of her: which was, that shee excell'd all of his acquaintance, (and he was jubilated with fifty years experience) for carrying the cross of Christ, and a reverential regard to her ghostly fathers. Arm'd then with this confidence above my experimentall knowledge att that time of her virtues, I gave obscurely a hint of our opinion, which, as shee was of a very lively and spirited apprehension she perceiv'd at the first overture, and embrac'd as sent by an angell from the oracle of truth, saying shee was fully satisfied: and since shee was not worthy to enjoy the sweetness of Mary's part, shee would strive better than heretofore to make it acceptable to his divine will, by the conjunction of Martha.

I here most cordially wish I had the criditt to borrow for the surplus of this history, the quill of Cicero, or rather the witt of Angustin, the eloquence of Crysologue, and mouth of Chrysostome; for now I sett upon an account of her virtues during the time of my apprenticeship, which I so call, because, though obedience appointed me for seven years a pilott to her, yet the difference in abilities might have made her a manuductour to me.

This lively patterne then of true virtue and sanctity, understanding the interiour to give force and effective power to the exteriour, resolves uppon a new webbe of perfection, and to weave it with a finer thread, takes an exact measure of the whole state of her soul by a serious inspection into her conscience, which every half year she prepared for a general expiation with three days retirement and meditations accomodated to that purpose. I dare be depos'd that in fourteen half years confessions, and three of her whole life (all which shee perform'd with as much accurateness as if each one was to have been her last) I never heard any thing that did bear the tincture or resemblance of a mortal sin: so that I may assuredly say, shee wore the stole wherewith she was invested in baptizme without spot or staine to extrem-unction.

Shee confessed, and received the most blessed body of our Lord, every Sunday and feast, unless it were next day to Sunday, then she intermitted the one. For her better preparation to these sacraments shee premised the night before a chapter of the golden treatise, intitl'd the *Imitation of Christ*, treating of the devotion and reverence, wherewith we ought to receive the life-giving food; which she perused with so such attention and diligence,

that shee rather seem'd to make a meditation than a spiritual lesson : and being asked why she read so leasurely, shee gave a solid reason by a couple of familiar examples : the one of a hen who breaks with her bill the meat for her chickens, but eatens none herself ; the other of a nurse who converts the meat into her own substance to breed milk, and feed her little one ; so said shee, in reading a treatise of such concearnment, we must imitate a wise nurse, not the simplicity of a foolish hen.

She was singularly devoted to the service of the Blessed Virgin, and zealous to advance her glory, by her self, her children, her servants, and her neighbours. Her self was a sodalis of the all-immaculate conception, in honour whereoff she fasted every Saturday to one meal, and each month read the rules of the sodality, observing them in every particular most punctually. She caus'd all her children, as soon as they were ripe in years, to be enrolled in the same sodality, and often read the rules herself to them : such servants and neighbours as shee found capable of that devotion, she commended to her ghostly father to be admitted. In fine shee had so high an esteem of the Virgin Mother's power and prerogative with her Son, and graciousness to sinners, that I have heard her often say shee thought scarce any perished that had once been under the wings of her protection. Shee was exceedingly taken with mentall prayer, and was wont to compare it to the star that conducted the sages to the crib of Christ, not so much by a conceite grounded in sacred writers, as by her own experience, affirming that it serv'd her for a guide in every day's journey, and that the regulating, or well ordering of her actions, depended much of the success thereof. Allthough the infirmity or weakness of her

constitution would permit her to spend but half-an-hour every day in meditation ; notwithstanding shee bestow'd much more time ruminating in the afternoon, as shee walk'd solitary in the house or garden, the heavenly manna and fruit shee had gather'd in the morning. This was apparently known partly by the ardent aspirations shee was frequently heard to breath by others, in another room or walk ; partly by the diversity of her postures, which they perceived when they came unexpected to speak with her, as sometimes walking, sometimes standing, and sometimes kneeling uppon a suddain, according, as wee may believe, to the gust and variety of celestiall dainties which then shee tasted.

Her method in prayer was that which is usually observ'd in the Society ; the matter, the life of our Saviour taken from points, answering to the times of the year, which I did read every night after Litanies, and uppon festivall days I gave her one of the feast. Shee made her prayer solitary in her closset, with all the preparatives and preambles prescribed in the Introduction or Instruction to Meditation.

After my coming, shee added to the generall examin of conscience which shee made twice a day, the particular touching the pursuit of some virtue, or conquest of some defect. In this I know not whether I should admire more her industry or humility. Industry for not only finding and gathering out of the garden of her soul, the weeds of most abstruse and least imperfections, but for engrafting allso various plants of virtue so artificially, that shee seem'd like the angels uppon the steps of Jacob's Ladder, to assend by degrees from the lowest to the highest. Humility for her candour in communicating to her ghostly father what difficulty soever shee mett with in performing

it: and though shee knew to a hair the length of her own foot, and uppon what matter was most needfull for her to ponder, yet would shee never adventure uppon the election of any without his approbation.

As soon as shee awaked shee made an oblation to God of her thoughts, words, and deeds, from morning till dinner; att dinner, another till even-song; att even-song, the third, till litanies; the fourth, till the next morning; in honour of the journey our Saviour took when he came from his father into the world, left the world, and return'd again to his father. This is not my conception or gloss, but her continuall practice formaliz'd with these intentions.

Besides this constant exercise, whereby all her vitall motions did continually journey from earth to heaven, shee often renew'd her intention in particular actions, like a considerate archer, who takes his aim deliberately before he shoots; often discoursing of the necessity and utility of this virtue, sometimes calling it the eye of her soul, which guides the faculties in their operations; sometimes the hand by which shee embraces good, and repells evil; sometimes the feet which help her to walk in darkness: conformable to the similitude by which St. Gregory, in his second of moralls, declar's the necessity of a right intention, "*Sicut fabrica columnis, columnæ basibus innituntur, ita vita nostra in virtutibus, virtutes in intima intentione subsistant.*"—As the fabrick cannot stand without pillars, the pillars without foundations, so doth our life and livelihood consist in virtues, and virtues receive their consistency from an internall intention.

By these symptoms that appear'd, we may form an imperfect conjecture of that the all-searching eye of God could only penetrate, and undoubtedly conclude that as

shee contemplated him by virtue of this intention, whilst the interposition of mortallity impedit a better fruition, so those obstacles being remov'd, shee now enjoys him in a very eminent degree, or intension of beatificall vision.

Even as the Spouse who thro' dimm clouds wounded her belov'd but with one eye, or the eagle that in a density of mist cannot clearly discover the sun, but when that obscurity is dispell'd, shee wounds with both, and the eagle beholds that bright body of light with undazled eyes.





CHAPTER VII.

OF HER PERFECTION IN THE EXTERIOUR.



O her mentall devotions shee added a world of vocall, and by frequent renovation of intentions, so spiritualiz'd her outward actions, that they seem'd in a manner nothing but emanations of interior holyness, and a continuall prayer. From the substance and virtue of the internall was deriv'd a strong influency, power, and majesty, to the externall, and in these shee ever lean'd uppon the counsell of her spirituall directour, affirming that God by him taught her his will, not only in things of spirituall, but also temporall. Which pious custome, tis evident by the successfull effects, the Holy Ghost inspired, tract of above thirty years establish'd, and shee as a legacy to her children most efficaciously inculcated. Shee said shee always found the best success in following his directions, tho' opposite to common sense and judgement of others more knowing in such affairs. In this shee was so resolute, that myself being consulted in business of husbandry and

the like, wherein I needed not blush to appear a novice, I was many times forc'd, knowing her garbe peremptory in that point, to desire time to deliberate, to confer with some vers'd in those matters, that we might not both do amiss, and as they resolv'd, deliver my opinion.

For the composure of her family, or rather externall structure of her spirituall building, shee edify'd with astonishment, and mov'd to imitation. Her chappell was neat and rich; the altar stood vested with various habiliments, according to the fashion in Catholick countrys. Mass in the morning; Even-song in the afternoon, about four of the clock, with the Littanies of Loretto to recommend to the Sacred Virgins custody the safety of her house and a De-profundus for the faithful departed; between eight and nine att night, Littanies of Saints, att which all her servants were present. On festivall days they also heard Mass and Even-song, and when there was not a Sermon in the morning, there was usually a Catechisme in the afternoon, to which her neighbours children were call'd with her own houshold, and herself never absent, delighting much to hear them examin'd, and distributing meddalls and Agnus Dei's to those that answer'd best.

In the holy week shee had perform'd in that chappell all the ceremonies appropriated to that blessed time.

On Wednesday, towards evening, began Tenebræ, with the misterious candlestick of fifteen lights, fourteen of them representing, by the extinguishing, the apostles and disciples when they forsak'd Christ, the fifteenth on the top, which use'd not to be putt out, his dear Mother, who from the conception to the crib, from the crib to the cross, was not sever'd from him.

On Thursday a sepulcher, deck'd with sumptuous

jewells, and reverently attended day and night by her family and neighbours. On Friday creeping to the cross, which in kissing shee bath'd with tears. On Saturday shee caus'd to be extinguish'd every fire in the house, and kindled again with hallowed fire; then ensued the Benediction of the Paschall, and the rest of divine ceremonies, till mass. Att mass, as soon as the priest pronounc'd *Gloria in excelsis*, a cloth was suddainly snatch'd away, which vail'd a glorious altar, and many little bells, prepar'd for that purpose, rung in imitation of what is done with greater solemnity in Catholic countries.

On Sunday, after divine service, a benediction was given to diverse sorts of meat, and in remembrance of the Lamb sacrificed two days before on the cross, there was always blessed a proportion of lamb; finally, those that repar'd that day for their Easter communion, which were sometimes nigh a hundred, were all invited (according to our phrase) to break Lent's neck with her, in honour of Christ's joyfull and glorious resurrection.

The nativity of Christ shee solemniz'd in both kinds, feasting her tenants and neighbours corporally and spiritually, nor did her recollection abstract or sequester her from any society which might redound to their good: yea, I know some won by the sweetness of her affability to the true faith, whome schollars could not gain by learning and subtilty of arguments. Shee spent the eve of this festivity, from eight att night till two in the morning, in prayer; litanies began punctually at eight; immediately after, confessions, which, with a sermon, lasted till twelve; att twelve were celebrated three masses, which being ended, all broak their fast with a Christmass pye, and departed to their own houses.

In this time of mirth and joy for his birth who is the

sole origine and spring of true comfort, shee unbent the stiffness of her bow a little, and dispens'd with her accustomed rigour in so small a relaxation, that I want a diminutive to explain it; unless I deem it that in quality which phylosophers call attoms or indivisibles in quantity. For whereas at other times, shee never play'd att any game for money, but for prayers, for an hour after dinner and supper; in Christmass shee allow'd herself every day two hours after each meal, and a shilling to spend among her friends to make them merry. This was properly a recreation, for if shee lost, it was not a considerable value to trouble her, and if shee won, shee kept it in a purse to bestow after the hollydays on the poor over and besides her accustomed alms.

Shee had in a room near the chappell, a crib with musick to honour that joyfull mystery, and all Christmass musicians in her hall and dining chamber to recreate her friends and servants. Shee lov'd to see them dance, and said that if shee were present, greater care would be taken of modesty in their songs and dances.

When any was to be reconcil'd there-about, shee played the catechist, so as I had no other share in the work but to take their confessions. When any fell into travail or sickness, no occasion of business, weather, or time, were it night or day, detain'd her; yea shee often went sick and return'd sound, in so much that it pass'd for a proverb amongst us, we never took care for her in those cases. To women in travail shee never went without comfort of both sorts: relics for the soul, and, if they were poor, cordials for the body. For these offices, shee gained so much on the opinion of neighbours, that they would generally say, they fear'd not if Mrs. Lawson were with them.

If any pretend this was but a conceit or apprehension of woemen, to which that sex is precipitately, if not superstitiously prone, I may answer with truth, that as long as I lived, which, alas ! was but seven years, with her (for then shee died), none of her parish, man or woeman, departed this life without help, or infant without baptism.

I cannot omitt a pretty feat or prank of the devill, as shee was riding to an ancient servant false from his faith, and by sickness call'd to his last account ; shee was struck, as all conceive, by the commune enemy of charitable works, from her horse in very even way, gott up again, converted the miserable apostate, and after shee returned home, found her little finger out of joint which for the space of six hours spent with him shee never perceived.

Her liberallity did bountifully extend to the poor, both by vow and necessity ; these shee hourly reliev'd, feeding the hungry, cloathing the naked, and because shee was a widdow herself, shee kept a purse of twopences for widdows. To them, I mean, that made religious vows of voluntary poverty, and hazzarded their selves for the conversion of souls, shee needed a bridle, not a spur. The two prisoners in Newcastle above mentioned, shee furnish'd with church-stuff, washed their linnen, provided with all necessary's for cloths and victuals, and though Mr. Mors[e] was known to belong to her, nevertheless preferring his conveniency before her own safety, shee adventur'd to visite him in the jayle, and suted the magistrate he might enjoy the liberty of the town for his health. To her ghostly father nothing was wanting fitt for the condition of a religious man. He was accommodated with a good chamber and library, with all things belonging to himself in a genteel and plentifull way ; and

according to the custome of colledges, shee gave him a viaticum when he went abroad, the remainder of which he restor'd when he return'd home. I dare avouch, that for the space of seaven years, I neither knew what was in my purse when I took journey, nor shee what I expended out of it, when I gave it to her att my retmrne. Moreover, shee yearly bestow'd ten pounds uppon the Superiour of the Society for pious uses, and the tyths of a salmon fishing.

My discourse of this virtue might swell to a large treatise, but because I would rather dwell with herself in heaven, than in lands on earth, I will end her endless bounty with a brief relation of one passage wherein shee received such content and pleasure, that shee often said it would protract and lengthen her life.

Half a dozen of the Society made each year the spirituall exercise in her house for eight days with collegiall form and dicipline; for which shee provided gowns, a refectory, glasses for bear, dishes for antipasts, portions, and postpasses, cutting them out with her own hand, and sending, like a solicitous and devout Martha, to the table, and like a recollected Magdalen (to whose surpassed [office?] nature had more addicted her), hearing every day all the masses. She so jewell'd this devotion, wherein by reason of danger and charge, shee was more admired than imitated, that being ask'd by me, if it were not over troublesome, shee reply'd, I could not enjoy a greater mortification than to bereave her of that comfort, Truly shee was so far from deeming it any trouble, that shee own'd it a greater favour that they would stay with her another day for recreation after their retirement, and permitt her to dine with them in the refectory, which was granted, with the same formallity of reading and service

they us'd, except a glass of wine each one had for himself, Att night shee made a feast for the whole house, and the next morning they departed with the apostolicall salutation or farewell, '*Pax huic domui.*'—Peace be to this house.

In the government of her family, her authority, prudence, sweetness, and gravity, was such, that every one lov'd her with fear, and fear'd her with love. Shee gave her servants more than was due in temporalls as a bountifull mistress, and all aide and satisfaction as their companion and equall in spiritualls, often relating Saints lives to her maids, and reading pious books in their company. A retainer to her father-in-law told me that he was converted to the Catholick religion by the many stories she recounted out of the Old Testament, as he rid before her out of Northumberland into Holderns, and added, he never had before, or since, such content in any journey. In journeying shee was so carefull of devotion, that if shee took but a walk for recreation shee premized the Littanies of Loretto, which were said publickly if the liberty of company permitted, if not, shee said them privately herself.

You must pardon this digression ; it proceeds from the weakness of my memory overwhelm'd with advenient species of new perfections, which, the more I dive into her life, occur like a strong current damm'd in by above fourteen years silence. Let us then regress and look awhile uppon her manner of government. Shee kept all her servants and children in excellent order. Her children, till they came to maturity, had a schoolmaster for humanity, a priest for Christian doctrine. Her servants were neither overcharg'd with multiplicity of affairs, nor wanted employments sutable to every ones abilities,

taking frequently an account of them, and often visiting their offices. Every night shee conferr'd with him that had care in chief of her husbandry, knowing what he had done that day, and what he was to take in hand the next. To the servant who had charge of marketting shee delivered her commands over-night, that without impediment he might take his best time in the morning. And that God might not only confer a blessing to her particular designs, first in the morning, and last att night, shee commended her house jointly with herself to the glorious Virgin uppon her knees, imploring her benediction promiscuously for all, with this short but pathetically prayer; "The blessed Virgin with her pious Son bless us this day, or this night. Amen."

I keep for a reserve her devotion to her patrons as the crown and compliment of her vocall prayers, or rather a mixt exercise compos'd of mentall and vocall.

That shee might perform her daily actions with more alacrity and fervour, and purchase more abundantly the grace, assistance, and protection of those happy spirits, att that instant on which eternity finally depends, against the assaults of the universall enemy, (who then is wont to shew his utmost extent of mallice, and use his strongest engins when man is weakest) shee consecrated to them in generall her whole life, in particular, every day in the week, craving her propitious invocations with the Antiphon and Collect proper to their feasts, for the better performance of that day's business, and begging some virtue through their gracious intercession. Sunday, to the three Divine Persons; desiring of them promptitude and perseverance in faith. Monday, to St. Ignatius, founder of the holy Society of Jesus, and glorious St. Teresia; obedience to her spirituall superiours. Tuesday, to her

Angell Guardian ; (in honour of whome allso shee said every day the little office) purity of soul and body. Wednesday, to St. F. Xaverius, and St. Monica ; zeal of souls, especially her children. Thursday, to St. John Baptist, and St Dorothy ; devotion to the blessed Sacrament. Fryday, to St. Peter, and St. Mary Magdalen ; a desire to suffer for Christ. Saturday, to St. Joseph and his Virgin Spouse ; (to whom likewise shee said every day the office of her conception) humility. The reason why shee undertook this virtuous exercise was that her naturall deficiency might be supply'd by a holy change of daily devotions : experience teaching that nothing is more pleasing or prevalent than novelty in the state of corrupt nature. For tho' God, by whome we are created to serve and honour in this life that we may enjoy him in the next, be no changling but allways the same, and alike to be serv'd without vissitude on his part, and interruption or remissness on ours : notwithstanding we are so desperately gone in a lethergy of dullness, inclining to an absolute decay, that without new fomentation the fervour of our devotion will be in time quench'd, or suffer a notable impeachment in the primary perfection.





CHAPTER VIII.

HER SICKNESS AND DEATH.

HER many and great deservings of the Society ty'd me in gratfullness to study for some requittall, wherefore I moved the superiour to impart (according to the laudable custome of religious orders to their speciall benefactours) the priviledges of the Society, and make her by communication partaker of their works, as if shee were a member thereof, which he most willingly condescended to with the whole latitude of his prerogative.

When I brought these unexpected tidings, her eyes were filled with tears, distilling from joy, her mouth considerate and sparing of speech uttered the canticle of old Simeon "NOW DISMISS O LORD THY SERVANT IN PEACE;" and I shall speak within compass of modesty, if I compare the change, or new luster in her countenance, with the known effects of alacrity and cheerfulness the Sun at the dawning begets in the universe, or sovereign ointment that fell on Aaron's beard, and diffus'd a generall perfume to the rest of his body Shee prosecuted all religious institutes with love and reverence, but was peculiarly devoted to the Society of

Jesus, and so overjoy'd at the receipt of this favour, that, for a perpetuall acknowledgement, shee desir'd her eldest son to whome St. Antony's fell after her decease, that it might be as freely att their service as it was in her life. Shee tould her other children it was for their sake shee gave no more to that body, whereunto shee was so much oblig'd, wishing them to perpetuate her respects in their acknowledgements; for the portions they gott by a natural obligation were due by title of gratitude, and to[o] little for those from whome shee received this benefitt.

After seaven years passed in this divine manner, under my conduct, God seeing her more ripe in fruit than years, visited her with such a sickness as, if we may credit Gregorious the Great, was an uncontrollable argument of his love, and her predestination. Our Lord comes, quoth this doctor, when he hastens to judgement; he knocks when he intimates the approach of death by sickness; we open the door when we receive him, "*Venit Dominus, &c.*," which is literally verified in her lingering disease and happy egress out of this world. Our Lord came not to her suddainly, or att unawares (much less unprovided); he knock'd and gave her above six months warning by a languishing consumption or cough of the lungs, and shee, expecting his coming, with the resign'd patience of Judith, and undefatigable love of Jacob, open'd willingly the gardin door of her soul, that he might enter and reap the fruit he planted.

I do not without ground explain her love and patience by the memory of this pairless couple, for when shee perceiv'd that we, after the application of human industry, as if her recovery had been set at a rate, sought it without effect by prayers, pilgrimages, pennance, and a'ms, shee

out of a perfect conformity of her will to God's reply'd "we must not like the Bethulians tempt God, or prefix a time for his designs, but think with Jacob all we suffer too little for our celestiall spouse.

Now her virtues began in troops to display their colours, and become more illustrious drawing near the end of combat and palm of triumph; even as a ship that having prosperously accomplished a dangerous viage, enters the haven with her sails swelling and flags flying, or in remonstrance of thanksgiving to heaven, or in defiance of enemys by water and land. Her humility a strong and rocky foundation of the rest made her stoop so low in the valuation of herself alive and dead, that shee did not only esteem whatsoever was minister'd for health over good and costly, but enjoyn'd me also to have a speciall care to moderate her funerall expenses.

Her patience was try'd to the quick in taking without sign of trouble (tho' shee had a sharp taste and delicate stomach) an infinity of distastfull ingrediencies, all which shee sugar'd with the sweet and wholesome preparative of a foregoing intention, by virtue whereoff shee took each deliberately in honour of some particular mystery of Christ's Passion.

Her resignation is best prov'd by her own words, which I often heard fall from her mouth, and were these, "O Lord, dispose of me as thou pleasest, put me where thou wilt, so I may not offend thee; Whereupon twice I ask'd her, "What if he put you in hell?" shee reply'd, "Yea, Sir, in hell, so I may not offend him."

Her obedience admirable, and physitions that understood the nature of her infirmity likewise affirme it miraculous. I say it is admirable and scarce to be follow'd for all

the seaven years I convers'd with her, and was consulted in her affairs, spirituall and temporall, great and little, I never needed advise one thing twice, except the distribution of her personall estate by will, wherein I thought shee took too much from her children for her soul, and to moderate this I spoak twice, and so did I never in anything before or after. Physicians and doctors those times and parts afforded, avow that which I will relate of her obedience miraculous, and far surpassing any strain of nature. The whole time of her six months sickness I was but one morning absent, and constantly visited her about four o'clock, and wish'd her, out of the honour and affection shee allways bore to holy obedience, to compose herself to sleep, and in obeying her spirituall guide endeavour to exercise an act of this virtue, which in those circumstances was very expedient both for body and soul: the soul whilst imprison'd in the entanglement of flesh and blood, being not able to operate vigourously without sufficient strength in the body. O admirable force of obedience! shee no sooner receiv'd this councill, which to her serv'd for a precept, but forthwith shee slept a good while, whether shee had rested well or ill in the night, and miss'd but the very day before shee died. By merit of this virtue all are of opinion shee liv'd a day longer than was possible by course of nature: not that shee delighted in longitude of life, but we expected her death on Palm Sunday, the hour glass (to our thinking) being run out to the last grain of sand; she begg'd life or respite for that day, to obey the commandments of the church, which about that time prescribe annual communion, and departed the next. Her charity, cedar-like, surmounted the rest, bowing nothing from the top of sublimity to the depth of her neighbours'

misery, for shee took care of all her children, providing them with competent livelihood, care to her servants and neighbours, bequeathing large legacies ; care to her own soul, distributing to the value of two hundred pound in pious uses ; lastly care of those that were out of the true church, with a zeal so compassionately ardent, that shee maintained many long and vehement encounters in matters of religion, when shee was hardly able to utter one word about her temporall occasions.

In the exercise of these virtues on her death, shee may seem to reflect and pitch at the mellifluous discourse of St. Barnard ; adorning with the same the standard of Christ : with humility, the feet ; obedience, the right hand ; patience, the left ; and charity, as a most rich crown and diadem, the top.

Now must I make my approach to her death (a precious death in the eyes of God), wishing rather she had pay'd me that debt, if her life had been at so low a price as the forfeiture of mine. I annoy'd her six days before shee expired, and fearing shee might pass when we least suspected, as it ordinarily happens in that disease, I convers'd with her all that time, night and day, almost without intermission.

As soon as shee received extreme unction, shee made an inflam'd speech to her children, friends, and servants, and my unworthy self ; exhorting all to the love of God and fraternal charity ; craving pardon for all her offences ; pardoning with her whole heart those that had trespass'd against her ; giving her children as freely to God as he gave them to her ; counselling them to take religious courses if they had callings ; if not, to make choice of houses for their abode, where those of the Society resided.

These and innumerable other wholesome documents, salied like fiery darts from her all-fiery tongue, to their mollified hearts, dissolv'd in an ocean of tears, and prepared as pliable as melted wax for any impression. And verily all were so ambitious not to lose a word of those which were likely to be her last words, that sighs were suppress'd with silence, tears with attention, and not a syllable fell from her pale lips which did not imprint a perfect sense in the whole auditory. The last word was not sooner compleated of this emphatical sermon, but every one's grief forced a vent with an eruption so violent, that I being more marble-like than the rest, was constrain'd for her ease to intreat their absence. After this mourning pageant was passed, I mean on our part, not hers, for shee exceedingly rejoyc'd when I brought news of administring the sacraments, shee submissively desir'd during the small remainder of her life, leave to receive him to whom she hasten'd. Wherein I had no reason to make difficulty, knowing her purity, and that no hart pursued to death ever more earnestly sought after the soil, or soldier parch'd with the sun in a toilsome march to refresh his thirst, than shee to bathe in the fountain of life. I gave her for twelve days together the blessed sacrament, about one in the morning, and we that watch'd with her observ'd that though shee could not take any rest before, presently after shee received, shee rested without any motion for the space of an hour, in a natural or supernatural (God only knows) contemplation of sleep.

Shee used when shee communicated to commend these intentions in her holy thoughts; the Catholic Church, her spiritual directors, alive and dead, her children, servants, benefactors, friends, and enemies, which I never

knew her have any but those that held opposition to the orthodoxall faith.

On Palm Sunday, in the night, which that year fell upon the Annuntiation of our Blessed Lady, the messenger of death delivered his finall summons, with such strong passions as if her spouse had prepared a new combat; I raised the house, and shee was so far from dying suddenly, that God hearing her former prayer (to witt, that her ghostly father might be present at her death), preserved her life till twelve at noon, her children, servants, friends, and another priest beside myself kneeling with dewy eyes at her bedside. I knowing her perfection and holiness above the ordinary strain, composed a particular directory for her comfort, involving all in the ordinary with divine additions. O how many strange things acted shee yet before her departure. The feeble hand which could nott lift for some days before a spoonful of broth, held a crucifix for the space of four hours without interruption, and lifted it up without help at least forty times to her mouth, as if either there had been some abstruce vertue in the crucifix to elevate it to her mouth; or vertue more than magneticall in her mouth of heavenly fire to attract the crucifix. Shee wished the remainder of her sufferings might be as absynthious and full of acrimony as any martyrdom, not out of hope or fear of retribution or punishment, but a more noble motive, and as gallant as ever shee had, to resemble and represent Christ, when [he] over-bought the redemption of mankind. Now, shee said, shee assuredly believed (though in health somewhat scrupulous in that particular) the confessions of her life were valid, shee perceiv'd her soul replenish'd with a tyde of divine visitations, overflowing the measure

shee suffer'd of terrene afflictions; shee received assistances from her patrons with sensible guests as if she had seen them (and we verily thought she did) especially the Queen Mother of God, whome from the first glimmerings of reason next to God shee honour'd. Finally, to prefix a seal to this history which deserves to be writt with a pen of adamant in the temple of eternity; when shee was arriv'd at the last period of her journey speechless, and not able to our thinking to make a sign, I no sooner propos'd any goodness but she cast up her hands and open'd her eyes as if shee had been like a corp renew'd or rather raised from death to life. Verily I can't nominate any vertue (and in my directory I compris'd allmost all) which in that condition shee did not exercise, at least in preparation of mind, and made it by some visible tokens appear. When we thought her epilogue had been ended, and was about to draw the curtain, or going to close her eyes, to our amazement shee elevated her hand, and imparted her benediction in the form of a large cross; then pronouncing or rather repeating the life-giving name of Jesus to gain the pardon of the sin last committed, as in manner of jubily, with Jesus in her mouth and a jubily in her soul, shee sweetly departed about twelve of the clock, in the year of our Lord 1632, and of her own age fifty-two. "Precious in the sight of our Lord is the death of his saints."

Her private exequies were celebrated that night about eleven a'clock in the place where shee died with the presence of a hundred Catholicks who spiritually depended of her. Her eldest son, whose life, like a phoenix born of her ashes, deserves also to appear in public, sparing no cost, caused her to be honorably interr'd in the Church

of All Saints', at Newcastle, alledging that he did not by that solemnity, infringe her commands to me, since itt should be his purse, and not hers, that defrai'd the charges. I was with joy satisfied, and the buriall perform'd in the manner following.





CHAPTER IX.

HER FUNERALL, AND SOME TESTIMONIES ABOVE ORDINARY OF HER
SANCTITY.



HER son contriv'd the funerall in a proportion correspondent to her quality, and his love and honour to so dear a mother. The next day after her death all the gentry thereabouts were invited, and a dinner were prepar'd for them. The poor of that and the bordering parishes were served that day with meat; the next with money. Divers boats full of people came in the afternoon from Newcastle, all plentifully entertained with a banquet; and when these civill respects were ended, we carried the corps in the evening to Newcastle, in her own boat, accompanied with at least twenty other boats and barges, and above twice as many horse, planting them on both sides of the shore, till their arrival at the city. They found the streets shining with tapers, as light as if it had been noon. The magistrates and aldermen, with the whole glory of the town, which for state is second only to London, attended att the landing place to watt on the coffin, which they received covered with a fine black velvet cloth, and

a white satin cross, and carried it but to the church door, where with a ceremony of such civility as astonish'd all (none, out of love of her, and fear of them, daring to oppose itt), they deliver'd it to the Catholicks only, who with another priest (for I was not worthy of the honour), laid it with Catholick ceremonies in the grave. In the interim, a gentleman was appointed to conduct the ladies and magistrates to a sumptuous banquet in the finest house in the town, where they expected, enlarging themselves in discourses upon her praises, till all was ended in the church. Then her son waited on them, and with more tears than courtship (unless it be a point of courtship for ceremony at such a time to swim in tears), rendered many thanks for their noble civilities.

Various Testimonies of her Sanctity.

God is wonderfull, says the Holy Ghost, in his saints commending by extraordinary operations, his particular love to them, and universall providence over all the whole world.

It is love for that, whereas at first they were fermented by nature into a gross bulk or body of leaven; he subtilises them by grace, which school-men call *Gratum faciens*, making gratefull, and the first being or creation in sin; he recreates by a second architecture, incomparably better, of sanctity and vertue.

It is providence to the world for elevating them by another grace called *Data gratis*, bestow'd upon them gratis to operate for the good of things above any power

under the highest. This never ceasing bounty was not difficient in our glorious saint, but testified her eminent holiness by severall remonstrances before, and since her death, which if I may not assume the liberty, yet to know miracles certainly I shall not be responsible to the honour I owe her renown'd merits, and account I am tied by charge to give unto the world if I acknowledge them pheasible by any hand sublunary or supernall but God's.

The first is that above 20 years before she died, she was seen by her husband in two places at once ; for delighting much to see her take care of her domestick affairs, as she could doe it extreemely well, he beheld her one day amongst the servants in the kitchin, as he pass'd by, and going directly to his chamber, which was accessible but by one pair of stairs, he found her there upon her knees, with such astonishment, as after that he profess'd, he never thought time lost in housekeeping which she spent in prayer.

The second ; some years after being dangerously sick, she prophecied of her own recovery, and that in her life time a sect should arise in England like the Catholick profession, but not Catholick : both which happen'd according to her prediction ; for it pleased God she recover'd of that sickness, tho' given over by all physicians except one, whose opinion was only grounded on the goodness of God's mercies, who, he thought, would not deprive so many children of such a parent. And about a dozen years after, Armenism was publickly profess'd in those parts, with altars, crucifixes, candles, and other ceremonies of the Roman Church ; but like a beautifull sepulcher, fair without and foul within, and nothing in reality semblable to it.

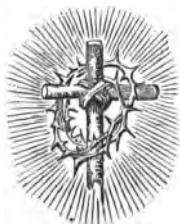
The third; presently after her death, I heard most melodious musick, like that of the Franciscan friars at St. Omers, but now sweetly singing the office of the dead; and when one told me it was nothing but want of sleep, which, being overtoil'd with watching, made me think the noise upon the water musick, I answered, "No, I plainly distinguished that noise upon the river from the musick, and that I could not compare it to any so well as that of those holy friars at St. Omers, which I often heard from the convent to the English seminary." It is a strange circumstance, and very remarkable to perswade the credibility of this miracle, that the species or representation of that musick should occur, which for the least of eighteen years I had not heard. Nor can I alledge any publick reason hereof, except the peculiar devotion wherewith she honoured the seraphicall patriarch and founder of that institute, on whose feast she did constantly communicate. It seems God would entertain her with musick voices, as He did her vertuous and dear sister, the Lady Fairfax, of Gilling,* with instruments. For Mr. John Cresswell, an ear-witness, and a gentleman of unblemish'd reputation, faithfully and often asked, assured me that immediately after her death, he distinctly heard musick, which he thought could be no other instrument than a lute, and after a diligent enquiry over the whole house, he found that by them no such instrument was used at present, nor any ways near that chamber, but sighs and tears for the loss of so worthy a lady.

* Sir Thomas Fairfax, of Gilling Castle, Yorkshire was created Viscount Fairfax, of Ireland, 1628; he married Catherine, daughter of Sir Henry Constable, of Burton Constable, sister of Mrs. Dorothy Lawson.—*H. L.*

The fourth miracle : three years after her death I did lend the beads she ordinarily used, and gave them from about her arm the very morning she died, to a woman in a desperate fever ; who was suddenly restor'd to health, and ascrib'd this favour, next to God, to her merits. These beads the confessor of Nidsdale keeps for a special reliek, and places them amongst her dearest jewells.

Now I must conclude in words, but my thoughts shall be endless in admiring her incomparable virtues. And since the extremity of times and uncertainty of my own condition, has bereav'd me of what I reserv'd as monuments of her sancity ; I can only reverence the vestiges of her happy memory in dust, and submissively beg for myself and hers, her mediation in heaven.

Laus Deo Semper.





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